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# ICEC focus on Koh Maphrao

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has suggested Koh Maphrao as an alternative location for the proposed Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC), as a way to break a stalemate between the government in Bangkok and local people over where the mega-project should be sited.

Speaking with the *Gazette* at his office, Gov Udomsak said that the island, located about a kilometer off Phuket's east coast and part of Tambon Koh Kaew, would be an appropriate site because most of its 3.2-square-kilometer area is government land.

The Governor said a bridge could be built to provide access to the island. This would afford impressive views from the ICEC. The island might also be suitable for marina development in the future, he added.

"I think a budget of not more than 3 billion baht to build the ICEC at Koh Maphrao would be appropriate. A bridge to the island could be built for about 500 million baht," he said.

The island is inhabited mainly by Muslim villagers and remains largely undeveloped. It was not among the four "final" sites that were put to a public vote in February, 2003.

At that meeting of 262 government officials, leaders of business organizations and members of the public, 226 people voted for a site at Tah Chat Chai in Thalang district. The site at Saphan Hin, favored by the government, received just 19 votes, while a third site, next to Ao Makham, got 17 votes.



The school at Koh Maphrao, currently a sleepy backwater.

Last October, however, the Government seemed poised to go ahead with building the ICEC at Saphan Hin, following a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak, Tourism Authority of Thailand Governor Juthamas Siriwan, Gov Udomsak and Dr Prasit Koey-siripong, then President of the Phuket Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*).

The island's political landscape has changed since then, however, with the Democrat

Party having taken control of the *OrBorJor*.

Gov Udomsak, who admitted that the project seems to have fallen into a policy limbo, proposed Koh Maphrao as a way to break the deadlock.

"Koh Maphrao would be a good place because it would not involve land reclamation and associated environmental problems. This is just my opinion, but I will present it to the parties involved if we cannot build the ICEC at Saphan Hin," he said.

## Entertainment venues still waiting on license fees

By Dhirarat Boonkongsan

PHUKET CITY: Wisut Romin, Deputy Secretary of the Phuket Provincial Administration Office (PPAO), told the *Gazette* on May 14 that he is still waiting for the Ministry of Interior to set the fees for entertainment licenses, despite 50% of renewals having already been granted.

More than 170 licensees in Phuket are waiting to see just how much they will have to pay.

Speculation is rife that licenses – valid from May 12 to December 31 – may cost as much as 50,000 baht apiece.

Entertainment venues fall into six main categories and some venues have had to apply for two or more licenses.

A March 12 deadline was originally set for license renewals but, said K. Wisut, officials have continued to push applications through because of confusion in the entertainment industry over which license, or licenses, to apply for.

He also cited incomplete and erroneous documentation from applicants as another cause of delays.

Meanwhile, a complete moratorium on the granting of new licenses has been imposed in Phuket until the backlog of renewals has been processed.

Some 200 new applicants have little option but to wait an indefinite period for a decision on whether they will get licensed. K. Wisut said that most of these applications have come from Kathu district, which includes Patong.

"As to cost, people should not worry. I don't think that a license will cost more than 50,000 baht," said K. Wisut, adding that he expects the fee to be more like 10,000 or 20,000 baht.

Something Fishy is Happening in Phuket.

★ Heineken



# Divers retrieve 300m fishing net from reef

By Siripansa Somboon

PHANG NGA BAY: Phuket Marine Biology Center (PMBC) officers and volunteers from local dive companies worked together on May 14 to retrieve a 300-meter-long fishing net that had become entangled on coral just off Koh Hang.

The net was discovered by a PMBC officer on a regular dive to inspect the condition of the coral. A length of about 10 meters was found entangled with the reef.

Marine biologist Nippon Phongsuwan told the *Gazette* that the net was probably thrown

overboard by fishermen, causing damage to coral and endangering sea life in the area.

"It takes five to 10 years to restore areas like this that have good water, but 20-30 years to restore areas in water that is not so clean," he said.

Meanwhile, experts at the PMBC at Cape Panwa have rated the chances of survival of a dugong found injured and stranded at the edge of Klong Pa Khlok on March 5 as high as 80%.

PMBC biologist Kongkiat Kittiwattawong, speaking to the *Gazette* on May 17, said that the young dugong will probably need to spend another 12 months at the



Although she is recovering well, this young dugong will need about 12 more months of care before being released.

center before she fully recovers. "We must be certain that she will be able to eat without assistance before we release her," he said.

"Her injuries, particularly a large gash on her mouth, are healing very well, although she is still on antibiotic medication. Her

weight has increased to 29 kilograms, which is a good sign."

K. Kongkiat speculated that the infant dugong had become separated from her mother before being dashed on rocks and then stranded.

## Training offered to foreign tour guides

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura has authorized the use of 1.5 million baht from provincial coffers to give 100 hours of foreign-language instruction to tour guides in Phuket.

Foreign nationals are barred from being tour guides because it is a "reserved occupation" for Thais only, but guides adept in Russian, Swedish, Korean, Chinese and German are in short supply.

This has resulted in foreign guides working in Phuket – ostensibly as "interpreters" with Thai "sitting guides" given the task of deflecting uncomfortable questions from police or Immigration officers as to the role of the so-called interpreter.

However, at least one Korean tour guide has been arrested and sources suggest that corruption – as well as illegality – is rife throughout the industry.

Panomphol Thummacharniyom, the President of Phuket Professional Guide Association (PPGA), told the *Gazette* that there are 33 Thai guides in Phuket sufficiently fluent in Korean to serve the market, but that this figure is not enough. The aim of the language course is to produce 200 Korean-speaking Thai guides.

However, K. Panomphol was not impressed with this new opportunity for Thai guides. Indeed, he dismissed the Korean market out of hand.

"Korean tourists don't have much effect on the Thai economy because they visit only Korean-owned businesses when they're on holiday here," he said.

Training will take place at a new facility – the Phuket International Language Institute – within the Prince of Songkhla University Phuket Campus, and is due to start next month.

## Employment fair to offer 2,000 jobs

PHUKET CITY: About 2,000 jobs will be up for grabs at a mass job fair at the Rajabhat Institute Phuket on May 27 and 28.

The fair, organized by the Phuket Provincial Employment Service Office (ESO), will be open from 9 am to 3 pm.

Penchan Boonhok, an officer at the ESO, told the *Gazette* that many employers will be taking part, including companies setting up at Central Phuket Festival shopping complex and Makro, as well as hotels, shops and private companies from Phuket and other provinces.

She added that applicants may even be offered jobs on the spot as most employers taking part will be conducting interviews at the fair.

For more information call the ESO at Tel: 076-219660-1, ext 13 or 14.

## Confusion over visas on arrival

By Dhirarat Boonkongsaen

BANGKOK: Pol Col Chalermpong Vadhanasukha, the Deputy Superintendent of Immigration Division 3, has verified that foreigners may receive more than three consecutive tourist visas on arrival.

Col Chalermpong clarified the issue after it was raised by a *Gazette* reader who was concerned that such a regulation was about to be enforced. The reader said that he had learned of the regulation through a Thai Immigration Office website.

The reader said he understood that the regulation officially came into effect in 1997 but had seldom been used. It stipulated, he said, that foreigners could not be issued more than three consecutive tourist visas on arrival, and that after the third visa expired, the foreigner had to leave Thailand and would not be allowed to return for 180 days.

Col Chalermpong said, "I have never heard of this regulation. There were no changes to

immigration law or regulations in that year [1997]."

However, Col Chalermpong explained that under a rule issued in 1999, people applying for visas on arrival should expect close scrutiny.

"Real tourists are welcome anytime, but immigration officers will usually consider foreigners holding many consecutive tourist [60-day stay] or transit [30-day stay] visas gained on arrival as suspicious."

He explained that people applying for tourist visas on arrival must prove that they have at least 20,000 baht per person, or 40,000 baht per family, as spending money – each time they enter Thailand.

People applying for transit visas must prove that they have 10,000 baht per person or 20,000 baht per family. "That has been a Ministry of Interior regulation since 1999," he said.

Col Chalermpong criticized "unofficial" websites for answering foreigners' questions with unreliable information. "For ex-

ample, www.thaiimmigration.com, posted by the Nongkhai Provincial Immigration Office, did not answer the foreigner's question with the facts, but instead with misleading information and humor," he said.

"The Immigration Division 3 website [at www.imm3.police.go.th] is the official website where foreigners can find out information and post questions about immigration," he added.

Oddly, there is a link from it to the thaiimmigration.com website, which is registered to Pol Col Sorrapol Payoongveeranoi, Superintendent of Nong Khai Immigration, where the moderator posted a background on the current confusion:

"Nong Khai Immigration [has] got two different sets of instructions from Headquarters in Bangkok on how the new financial rules are to be executed/interpreted."

"That has given us a kind of delicate situation ... So to keep it simple, let's just say they are both right."

คำเตือน : การดื่มสุรากล่าวบปี่รอกจะเป็นอันตรายและผิดกฎหมาย

## ★ Unusual school of fish catches the attention of motorists on superhighway



12 April 2004, Phuket - A unique portrayal of a school of exotic fish being chased by an eager bottle opener is gaining lots of attention on a superhighway in Phuket. This eye-catching display from Heineken is the result of an idea to create a billboard that compliments the island of Phuket. International tourists and locals alike are attracted to this novel portrayal, which captures the character and charm of Phuket in a truly unique way. Both Phuket and Heineken are extremely popular,

each in their own way. Phuket is the much loved resort where people come to refresh themselves while Heineken is famous worldwide for its refreshing taste. The fish and the deep blue sea reflect the exotic island where the blend of sea, sand and sun is an attraction that has made Phuket famous worldwide. All that sun and sea air also has a way of creating a real thirst ...and what better way to quench that thirst than a cool refreshing glass of Heineken.

It could only be Heineken.



PHUKET CITY: The new Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Anchalee Vanich-Thepabut said that education, tourism development and quality-of-life issues need to be urgently addressed in order to bring about sustainable development in Phuket.

Speaking on her first full day in her new job on May 12, she singled out education as the most pressing issue, saying that the national government's decision to allow teachers to take early retirement had left more than 500 teaching positions vacant in Phuket.

She added, however, that *OrBorJor* funding for teachers' salaries would remain at the same level as last year.

To ease traffic congestion, especially during the morning rush hour, she said she would consult with the Provincial Highways Department to improve road surfaces and possibly re-engineer well-

# Anchalee outlines OrBorJor policy

By Anongnat Sartpisut

known bottlenecks, such as at the Samkong and Dara Samut School intersections.

She also said she was considering introducing a bylaw that would ban trucks from roads during rush hour.

Combining education and traffic policy, K. Anchalee mentioned the possibility of using the *OrBorJor*'s fleet of buses to provide transport into the city for schoolchildren from outlying areas such as Rawai, Chalong and Wichit.

To promote tourism, she said the *OrBorJor* would construct a "welcome gate" at Tah Chat Chai. Cars crossing over the Sarasin Bridge and coming onto the

island would pass through this gate. Drivers who might otherwise be unaware would then know definitively that they had reached Phuket, she said.

To improve the quality of life of Phuket residents, K. Anchalee plans to introduce a system for residents to register with the police while they are out of town so that officers will keep an eye on their property when they are away.

She also advocated a "one tambon-one lawyer" scheme that would make one attorney available in each of Phuket's 13 tambons to provide free legal assistance and advice to residents.

During the press conference, K. Anchalee also introduced her management team and advisers. She said former Kathu

District Chief Sutin Uthaitamrong would serve as Vice-President and Suthep Thepsukul as Second Vice-President.

She also introduced her four advisers – former Chamber of Commerce chairman Charn Wongsatayanond (tourism); Dr Koson Tang-uthai (quality of life); Dr Seupsaeng Phrombun (education) and Chumsak Kohkawee (Muslim affairs).

The team and its full policies will be announced formally at the *OrBorJor* meeting on Friday May 14.

K. Anchalee told reporters, "I am ready to administer Phuket in accordance with the policies outlined in my campaign. My team and I will do our utmost to develop Phuket in a fair, honest and effective fashion."

## Let them eat seaweed

PHUKET: Patong Municipality isn't sitting idly by as unprecedented amounts of *Ulva Reticulata* seaweed continue to wash up along its shore.

The municipality is pursuing a two-pronged strategy of collecting the bright-green algae and researching ways to put it to good use, including, possibly, promoting it as food.

The seaweed is the result of hot-season water temperatures and the introduction of nitrogen and phosphorus into Patong Bay from Klong Pakbang, which empties into the bay at the south end of Patong Beach.

The municipality continues to collect the seaweed using boats and nets, as well as by stuffing into plastic bags any seaweed that washes ashore.

Namphet Chatpunyanon, Director of Patong Municipality Environmental Health Office, told the *Gazette* that the marine algae played an important role in "fixing" both nitrogen and phosphorus, two main constituents of human waste. She expects the algae growth to decrease with the annual reversal of prevailing monsoon winds, which is now underway.

K. Namphet said that because the municipality's wastewater treatment plant was incapable of treating all the wastes generated during the high season, research into the effective use of the algae should be conducted.

K. Namphet said that *Ulva Reticulata* could be an effective fertilizer and does not cause irritation when it comes into contact with human skin.

She said that Prof Karnjapart Liewmanoolong of Kasetsart University, who visited Patong recently, told her the seaweed was also safe to eat.

When asked how tourists has responded to the presence of the algae, she admitted that there had been complaints. But sensing that a change in public perception about the algae was needed, she told the *Gazette*, "Maybe we'll hold a seaweed-eating festival next year."

– Naiyana Pattanapiboonpong

# Gov gets tough on jet-ski ban plan

By Sangkhae Leelanapaporn

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangura on May 17 reaffirmed his stand on ridding the island of jet-skis by March 1, 2011, and said that any person who rents out a jet-ski after that time will be prosecuted.

Gov Udomsak said that under the plan, all existing jet-ski registrations will expire within seven years and no new ones will be issued.

"If [anyone] doesn't believe it and continues to rent out jet-skis [after March 1, 2011] they will see. If there is a fatality, they will be held accountable and prosecuted," said the 59-year-old Governor, who will retire from the public service next year.

"There are 219 jet-skis registered in Phuket, but these will be phased out over seven years. Their owners will need to find new occupations. There are many jobs available for them in Phuket's tourism industry, so there is no reason for them to rely solely on jet-ski rental," he said.

The plan to establish Phuket as a "jet-ski-free" province follows the deaths of two European tourists late last year, one of them a 13-year-old boy.

Kritpetch Chaichuay, head



Jet-ski operators in Phuket have seven years to ship out, according to Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangura.

of the Phuket Marine Office, told the *Gazette* that jet-skis operators are now restricted to five beaches: Patong, Kamala, Kata, Karon and Bang Tao.

He added that the coastline along Patong Bay has been divided into five zones according to activity:

- swimming pens with beach access channels for water craft;
- water sports;
- pick-up/drop-off points seagoing tourists;
- small vessel anchorage;
- large vessel anchorage.

The zones will be strictly enforced during the November-April high season, he said.

Other beaches will maintain the current system whereby jet-skis will continue to enjoy the run of the entire beach, apart from where pens have been designated for swimming.

K. Kritpetch added that many jet-ski operators remain unaware of the long-term damage to the country's reputation their industry has caused.

"Marine Police and Royal Thai Police officers, together with district officials, are working together to inform members of Phuket Jet-ski Club of the regulations. We are warning them that any violators will be arrested," he said.

## TOT expansion halved by ICT Ministry

PHUKET: The Phuket office of the Telephone Organization of Thailand (TOT) will not get the 100-million-baht budget it needs to carry out its planned network expansion. Instead it will be lucky if it gets about half that amount, the head of the TOT in Phuket told the *Gazette* on May 17.

Late last year Phuket's TOT office requested the budget to increase the number of telephone exchanges on the island from 12 to 37 and to add 19,530 new telephone lines.

But TOT Phuket Chief Pairoj Somsri said that a recent meeting with ICT Ministry officials in Bangkok had been fruitless, and he now expects to get less than half of the requested amount.

"The discussions with representatives from the three ICT provinces [the other two are Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai] on May 13 failed to reach a conclusion.

"Still, I remain optimistic that we will get 38.8 million baht in 2004 funding to install 19 tele-

phone new exchanges and 8,100 telephone numbers," he said.

He declined to say which parts of the island would get the new exchanges if the funding comes though, for fear of TOT Phuket office losing its local competitive advantage.

– Dhirarat Boonkongsan

## Resort worker washes ashore Kalim Beach

KALIM: The body of Patong Resort restaurant steward Worawut Pholboon, 27, from Srisaket, was found washed ashore at Kalim Beach at about 5 am on May 12. K. Worawut had disappeared under a large wave at Patong Beach the preceding afternoon.

K. Worawut's cousin, Boonchai Boonwan, speaking to the *Gazette* on the day the body was discovered said, "Phuket Marine Police officers called me at about 5:30 am and told me that K. Worawut's body had been found. I hurried there and took the body to Patong Hospital."

K. Boonchai and friends had maintained a constant vigil throughout the night at Patong Beach since K. Worawut disappeared in rough surf late in the afternoon of May 11, in the hope that his body would be recovered so that it could be cremated in K. Worawut's home province.

However, the condition of the body made that wish impractical. K. Boonchai said, "I will contact a temple in Phuket where the body can be cremated." K. Worawut's parents arrived later that day.

– Siripansa Somboon

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## Queer News

## Hand over the cash ... or I'll squirt!

BANGKOK: A Swiss man who had his wallet stolen in the City of Angels turned to crime, arming himself with a water pistol and robbing a mini-mart in a desperate attempt to get enough cash to pay for his hotel room.

Police from Tungmahamek Police Station arrested 32-year-old Thomas Asbarcher at noon on May 2. The Swiss man had brandished a water pistol at the Family Mart on Narathiwat Rd, about two kilometers from his room at the Malaysia Hotel on Soi Ngam Duplee.

The cashier, who must have been horror-stricken at the thought of being squirted with water so long after Songkran, gave in to the man's request and handed over all the cash in the till – all 2,460 baht of it.

But after running off with the loot, Asbarcher was pursued by the hero of this tale, 25-year-old Family Mart employee Vichian Moo-In, of Uttaradit province.

Seeing the farang on the run, a taxi driver and several other passers-by joined in the chase. They eventually caught up with the foreign thief, wrestled the bag containing the money and squirt gun from him, and held him until the police arrived.

While the Swiss pondered his fate at the hands of the Thai legal system, at least he didn't have to worry about how he would pay for that night's accommodation. Jail cells are still free-of-charge in Thailand, even for foreigners.

Source: Kom Chad Luek

## Crap-puccino, anyone?

THAILAND: Name any addictive drug and you will find users seeking ever-more efficient ways of getting it into their blood-streams. The latest case is caffeine, the state-sanctioned stimulant found in coffee.

Under the guise of "alternative medicine", caffeine junkies are now taking coffee enemas. They claim that a good dose of java administered directly into the colon can have a detoxifying effect on the liver, to which it is connected through the hemorhoidal and portal veins.

Once the caffeine hits, bile ducts dilate and expel toxins into the gastrointestinal tract and out of the bug-eyed recipient's system – or so they say.

But detoxification can become a double-edged sword, causing health problems and putting whatever segment of the population that does not already

have a caffeine habit at risk of picking one up, says one doctor.

Dr Banchob Chunhasawadikul warned that some people enter caffeine detox programs believing they will lose weight. Such people should instead cut down on the amount of junk food they consume, he said.

Dr Banchob also urged patients to avoid reusing disposable enema bags, which could become contaminated with fungi and cause disease.

Coffee enema treatments, if repeated too often, can also cause caffeine addiction leading to insomnia, nervousness and an irregular heartbeat, he said.

It was not reported if Thai energy drinks, which also contain high levels of caffeine, were also becoming popular for colon irrigation procedures.

Sources: TNA and [www.ineedcoffee.com](http://www.ineedcoffee.com)

The product of four years of meetings, negotiations, planning, heated debate and even relocation before its construction was complete, Phuket's first dog pound is expected to open early next month.

The Phuket provincial government first considered the idea after public outcry over the culling of 12 stray dogs at Wat Wichit Sangkharam in July 2000, and a request by monks at Wat Langsarn to "remove" strays from their temple, which also resulted in dogs being put to sleep on temple grounds.

The pound, called *Baan Pak Sunak Phuket* (Phuket Dog Home), is expected to provide shelter for up to 2,000 of Phuket's stray dogs, which some people have estimated number up to 13,000.

Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) Chief Sunart Wongchawalit explained to the *Gazette* that the four-rai site comprises a two-rai open-air pen for dogs, with the other two rai occupied by an office, simple accommodation and a veterinary treatment room.

"We will hire four staff, who will live on-site, to watch over and feed the dogs, and a PPLO vet will visit every day and spend a night at the pound," K. Sunart said.

He expects the shelter to reach its 2,000-dog capacity within just two months of opening. "On arrival, dogs will be kept separate from the main group until they become familiar with their new home, and vicious and sick dogs will be kept separate from other dogs at all times," he said.

"All dogs will be sterilized, given anti-rabies vaccine and be under supervision. Sterilization will help ensure that overcrowding is controlled."

Despite the PPLO's good intentions, however, the shelter has come under fire from several dog help organizations on Phuket.

Margot Homburg Park, an adviser on the committee responsible for setting up the shelter and founder of the Soi Dog Foundation, told the *Gazette*, "The PPLO

"People will start dumping their

# Living

Phuket's stray dogs have long posed problems on the island so, in response, the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office (PPLO) has built a pound costing 2.8 million baht that is expected to become home to about 2,000 strays.

Yet the two-rai enclosure at Suanpa Bang Kanoon, in Thalang, has sparked controversy over whether the strays will receive proper treatment, as well as a range of other concerns.

The *Gazette's* Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum and Athairat Muangkong expose the issues that have some dog-lovers foaming at the mouth.



The two-rai holding pen at Suanpa Bang Kanoon, in Thalang, is about to become home to about 2,000 of Phuket's stray dogs.

is making a big mistake. The plan they currently have is wrong and might cause more suffering to the dogs.

"People will start dumping their dogs and the dogs will fight each other. This will be a huge disaster."

Explaining the need to keep dogs segregated into groups, she said, "Sterilized dogs are a little less aggressive, but the hierarchy system is still in play. The fighting will continue, with the strongest dogs threatening the weaker ones."

She also pointed out that wounds from fighting would prompt rapid transmission of disease. "Flies will spread disease, and this will be really horrible," she said.

K. Sunart, however, defended keeping all dogs in a common area, saying, "Sterilized dogs are much calmer, so there will be less fighting."

While conceding that some fighting might occur, he said, "After the dominant dog has established itself, the weaker ones will follow and become used to each other without any more fighting. If the dominant dog is too aggressive, we will isolate it."

However, well-known dog lover and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Mahidol University, Dr Parntep Patanakorn, disagreed. "Sterilized dogs

are not 100% tame. They still fight with each other and there are many reasons why they might fight, such as being crowded into spaces, hunger, illness, the breed of the dog, and so on."

One of the main factors that is expected to contribute to overcrowding is that, unlike at many government-run shelters in the West where dogs are kept for a limited period before they are put down, dogs kept at the Phuket shelter will be housed for life.

K. Sunart, oddly, did not see this as a problem. He expects natural attrition to keep the dog population in check. "Each dog lives a limited number of years, so the new ones will replace those dying from old age," he explained. "They can live up to eight years if looked after properly."

Again, Dr Parntep disagreed. "Dogs live for about 15 years. If they are fed properly, they will live perhaps two or three years more than that."

Another factor affecting the turnover of dogs at the pound is people wanting to "deposit" their pet, which will cost about 100 baht per dog. People can adopt a dog, too, for free.

As for unexpected newcomers, to counter people leaving dogs at the shelter K. Sunart



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# dogs and the dogs will fight each other. This will be a huge disaster.” in the doghouse



**IT'S A DOG'S LIFE:** Strays relax in the shade after some dried dog food. But after the pound opens, they will be fed food scraps from hotels and have to share the shade with some 2,000 other dogs.

is considering using the law to curb dog dumpers by asking police to fine them the maximum 500-baht penalty.

Another major concern sparking controversy is the feeding of the dogs. K. Sunart has spent 100,000 baht on 3.3 tonnes of dried dog food, but that will be used only when the usual food, leftover scraps from hotels, is depleted.

“We will target about 400 hotels in Phuket to donate leftover food,” he explained. “Every tambon administration organization on the island will be delegated the responsibility of getting hotels in its area to donate food to the pound.”

“If every hotel on the island donated leftovers on just one day

a year, there would be enough food,” K. Sunart said.

While many hotels on the island have contracts to supply local pig farms with food scraps, getting leftovers from hotels should not be a problem. The Laguna Beach Resort, the Kata Beach Resort and the Pearl Village Hotel, which have such contracts with local pig farms, all confirmed that supplying leftovers would not be a problem, but that the PPLO would have to collect it.

However, while this seems good in theory, Dr Parntep advised, “No pound should give dogs food scraps. If the food is rotten, the dogs will die. We should give dogs ‘clean’ food. Dogs are like human beings,

they need clean, fresh food.”

As with many animal welfare projects in Thailand, a dearth of funding is a problem, and K. Sunart is concerned. “With the money we have left, the pound cannot be run smoothly,” he said gravely, adding that he has applied to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization for a million baht to fund the pound for a year, which he hopes will be approved very soon.

On the human side of the pound's impact on the island, residents in the nearby village, just 100 meters away, are not impressed with the newest addition to their community.

Jampa Ean-Choun said, “I really disagree with this project and even wonder who we can ask

for justice if dogs escape and run out in front of vehicles.

“Their droppings might stink out the whole area and the barking will be very disturbing,” he added.

Villager Prontip Nunpak-dee agreed. “The pound should be relocated further away,” he said. Other villagers complained that they were not consulted on the decision to locate the pound so close to their homes.

K. Sunart responded, “If I held a public hearing, no one would agree with locating this project here. So I decided not to hold one, and we built the pound, which is better than nothing happening, because we want to solve the stray dog problem.”

What does seem odd is the apparent urge by Phuket authorities to reinvent the wheel when there are plenty of good examples in Thailand to learn from. The Kanchanaburi Animal Shelter (KAS), built 17 years ago as a refuge for stray cats, dogs and goats, was the country's first and remains Thailand's largest animal shelter.

Explaining how the facility is operated, Pimol-Orn Angsawotai, Manager of the KAS, said, “Before any dog is added to our pound, we determine which breed it is, how old it is and we observe its behavior to see whether it is aggressive or fearful.

“We sterilize all male strays so they will be less aggressive, and keep them separate from the main group for 15 days so they can adapt to their new surroundings. Then we let them join the group most appropriate for them, such as an aggressive or a fearful group, or other puppies or older dogs, and so on.”

K. Pimol-Orn explained that the KAS has 15 dog-lovers to care for the dogs, and kennels with cement floors and dirt where the dogs can defecate. “We collect the dried dog dung, which can be used to make methane,” she said.

“Our pound is located far from a community and has 2,500 dogs on 41 rai of land, and all our dogs are happy to be here. Four to five veterinarians come weekly to check the dogs' health, sterilize and vaccinate them,” she explained.

“We give dogs one meal of dry dog food a day because it is more convenient than cooked food. We don't give dogs leftovers because they become ill from eating rotten food. If dogs are ill, it costs a lot of money to cure them, so it's not worthwhile.

“We also have a problem with irresponsible people leaving their dogs in front of the pound, but this is normal. I think Thai people don't like being held responsible for their behavior.

“To control this problem, the local municipality should campaign seriously. If people don't feed their dogs, the dogs will suffer. If people don't want their dogs to breed, they must bring their dogs to be sterilised, and they can have their dogs vaccinated.

“I think Phuket can manage this problem because it is an island, and maybe Phuket can be an example for other provinces in how to solve this problem,” she added.

“We are funded by dog lovers' donations – there is no government budget for us. We spend 400,000 baht a month. I think Phuket should have fundraisers and promote this project. Phuket is a tourist destination where there are many Thai and foreign tourists. These tourists will surely donate some money to the pound.

“But the pound must be managed properly, and must take care of the dogs. If tourists come to see the pound and are happy to see the dogs, they will surely make donations.”



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# Where art just comes naturally

When it comes to flowers, many people prefer the real thing. But artificial flowers have many advantages over their natural counterparts – they never need watering, they don't attract insects, and when you return from a long vacation they look just as good as on the day you left, apart from a bit of dust, perhaps.

For a growing number of people, crafting artificial flowers from clay is a relaxing hobby. One such person is 48-year-old Patchara Panichcheewakul, whose passion for artificial flowers has led her to sell them in her Genius Gallery, a new shop in Samkong.

"My friends were very surprised that I had the patience to make artificial flowers, because before I took up this hobby I was quite impetuous.

"I have never been a 'dainty' woman. I used to be a fishmonger and my family owned a fleet of fishing boats, but I had to get out of the business after my husband died," she explained.

"But my work with artificial flowers has made me more relaxed and taught me to concentrate," she said.

The flowers are made from soft clay imported from Japan. She mixes this with a local clay in order to keep costs down.

K. Patchara, originally from Samut Prakan province, opened Genius Gallery two months ago in a shophouse along Hongyok-Utis Rd, near the Thai Rak Thai party offices.

**'I have never been a "dainty" woman,' says Patchara Panichcheewakul, who used to be a fishmonger. But her clay flowers show an exquisite sense of delicacy.**



Despite the name, you will not find portraits of Einstein, Issac Newton or Thaksin Shinawatra hanging from the walls of the gallery. What you will find, in addition to artificial flowers, is a bookstore and game room op-

erated by K. Patchara's 20-year-old son, Park.

Asked about the rather unusual assemblage of merchandise, K. Patchara said, "I think books, games and flowers go together because flowers can re-

lease the tension that comes from reading and playing games."

The flowers she sells include roses, lotuses and a wide variety of orchids, including Cattleya and Vanda. Prices, which include an attractive flowerpot,

range from 500 to 3,500 baht – not expensive when one considers that it takes K. Patchara and her friends up to two weeks to craft each display.

The shop also offers courses in making artificial flowers. The sessions are open-ended, with instruction focusing on making one kind of display. Each course is just 300 baht, although students need to pay for materials themselves. If students' work is good enough, K. Patchara allows them to sell their creations at the shop.

K. Patchara first learned how to make artificial flowers from a close friend, and then continued the study through books. She also carefully studies real flowers so that she can reproduce them in exquisite detail.

"If customers see these artificial flowers and they think they are real, that makes me very proud. My goal is to imitate nature as closely as possible," she said.

Although made from clay, her flowers can last years with proper care. They are sensitive to changes in temperature, however. They remain firm in cool temperatures but can lose their shape when subjected to high heat.

They also need to be kept dry, otherwise fungus may grow on them, though if this does happen, the fungus can easily be brushed off, K. Patchara said.

*For more information, visit the shop at 101 Hongyok-Utis Rd, Tambon Talad Yai, Phuket City, or call K. Patchara (076-236476; 076-236049; 01-9786784).*

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**SINGHA NEW LOOK**



# Drowning No 1 killer of Thai kids

**D**rowning is the No 1 cause of death for Thai children, with more than 6,000 youngsters perishing each year, according to statistics released by doctors at Ramathibodi Hospital.

While tykes and toddlers usually drown in bathtubs, buckets of water or ponds at or near their homes, children between five- and nine-years-old often drown while playing around neighborhood bridges and canals with no protective railings.

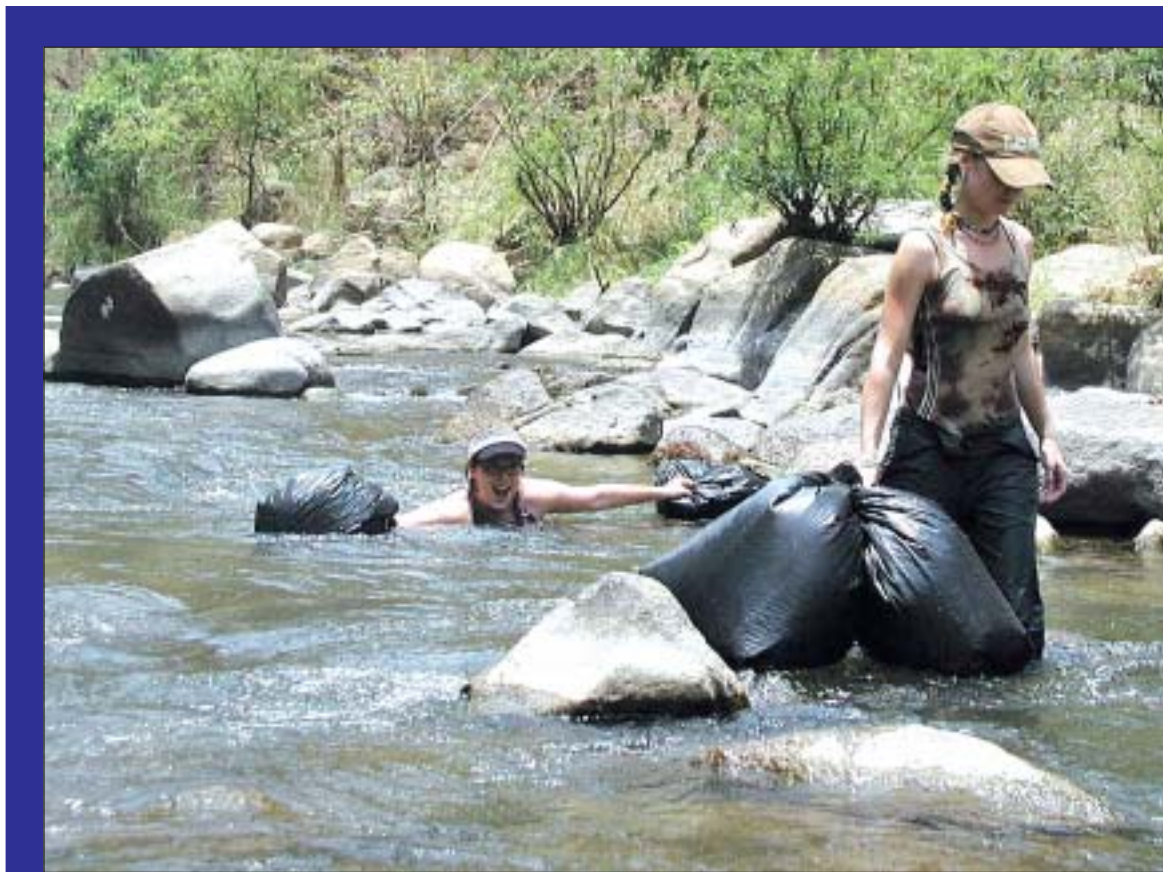
Asst Prof Dr Adisak Plitpolkarnpim, the chief researcher at the center for the prevention of accidents at Ramathibodi's Pediatric Department, said that studies indicate a nationwide annual average of 6,301 deaths.

An average of 2,481 children between birth and four-years-old drown, as do 2,644 children aged five- to nine-years-old, and 1,176 children aged between 10 and 14.

**Pet project:** The Sports Authority of Thailand plans to invest 472 million baht to build an indoor athletics stadium in Pattaya. The stadium will be built by Sino-Thai Engineering & Construction Plc and should be completed sometime next year, said Tourism and Sports Minister Sontaya Kunplome, a Chon Buri native.

The venue will also form part of the facilities for the First Asian Indoor Games Bangkok 2005, said K. Sontaya, adding that tourism and sport could work in tandem to attract more foreign visitors interested in sports and leisure to the region.

**Fat of the land:** Police are preparing to request arrest warrants for two more suspects allegedly involved in encroaching on land in Chiang Mai's Doi Suthep-Pui



Foreign volunteers collect garbage along a stretch of the Mae Taeng River in Chiang Mai in a cleanup organized by Friends of the Mae Taeng group. Students from Chiang Mai University also took part in the project. — Photo courtesy Mike Atkins, *Citylife*, Chiang Mai.

National Park. One of the suspects is a forestry official. Warrants for three other suspects have already been issued, and one suspect has been arrested.

Chiang Mai Police Deputy Commander Col Prasert Chandarapipat said a verification committee was checking who was allowed to live in the forest under a 1998 Cabinet resolution. He said the initial list contained only 176 people, but that number had somehow ballooned to 258.

"We've found that many people on the list are real estate agents and investors," Col Prasert said. Mae Hia Tambon Administration Organization chairman Tanawat Yodjai said famous figures and politicians' wives domi-

nated the list of people claiming a right to land in the forest.

**Win-win situation?** The Senate has passed the first reading of a bill to set up provincial committees to regulate motorcycle taxi services. The bill, proposed by the Transport Ministry, is the first of its kind for the industry.

In the absence of regulations, motorcyclists form their own taxi service groups, called *win*, and seek protection from local influential people or the police in order to keep operating.

Deputy Transport Minister Nikorn Chamnong said the provincial committees would stop taxi motorcyclists paying protection money to influential people,

and added that each motorcycle taxi would be required to have a special license plate. Drivers will also be required to hold insurance policies.

**Advance planning:** Most of the 18 assistant district chiefs who were recently reassigned from Surat Thani to the strife-torn deep South in the latest reshuffle have taken out life insurance. Some have even bought two policies, sources said.

The 18 will be sent to offices in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, where violence escalated at the start of the year. Most of the policies will pay out at least 1 million baht if the holder dies.

Kasidej Thongchu, current

assistant chief of Kanchanadit District, said he took out a 2-million-baht policy with 500-baht monthly premiums after he learned he was being sent to Pattani's Mai Kaen district. He said his wife was eight months pregnant and the policy would be security for her.

**Scot free:** Pol Maj Gen Phanu Kerdlapphol said the 1.27 million parking tickets issued last year were too many, equating to about one third of all traffic-related tickets in 2003.

"I have learned that some police chiefs have instructed their subordinates to issue at least three tickets a day so that their performance record will look good," said Gen Phanu.

He added that many local police stations have yet to register all ticket records in the computer system, thus allowing those caught parking illegally to go free. Each officer's commission on tickets issued cannot exceed 10,000 baht a month.

**Debris deposit:** People carrying bottles of water and foam food containers into a national park could soon be made to cough up a cash guarantee, which would be refunded only when they show the packaging to officers as they leave.

Thani Wiriyarattanaporn, Director of the National Park Office, said the measure might be implemented after several other plans failed to prevent park visitors from littering. He said that a study of 148 parks in Thailand found that each visitor produced an average of a kilogram of trash per day.

*Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.*

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# More than a sporting chance

Saturday May 8 saw the celebration of Sports Day at the Krabi College for Physical Education. The sports day was the final day of the children's sports program sponsored by the teacher's college during the school holiday period.

Children aged seven to 15 could sign up for a wide variety of sports programs and receive instruction and training from the teachers of the College. Hundreds of children and parents participated in the Sports Day, and it was a well orchestrated event.

Seven different sports groups competed in numerous events, and the day was topped off with a soccer match between the teachers and fathers of the students.

Fun was had by all and the organization was so efficient that the closing ceremonies were right on time. A tip of the hat to the school and administrators of the Sports Day.

The Krabi College for Physical Education is one of Krabi's best assets. The school was started in 1978, with facilities added over the years, and now the school boasts some of the best sports facilities in southern Thailand.

It has two pools, one 25-meter and the other 50-meter, a complete football stadium with lighting for night matches, an excellent 400-meter running track, and courts for tennis, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, Tae Kwon Do, dance and gymnastics. The complex is so large you need

a car or bike to get around it.

But the best thing about the school isn't the facilities. It's the staff and the programs they provide for the children and residents of Krabi. With more than 60 staff and teachers including three members of Thai national sports teams, the school has put together and hosted many excellent programs.

The public can apply for memberships of either the sports center or the swimming pool, allowing them to use the college facilities before and after office hours during the week and all day at the weekends.

The membership fee is 200 baht a year for adults and 150 baht for children. The daily charge for use of the swimming pool is 15 baht for adults and 10 baht for children. It's a great deal.

The facilities are located in Talad Kao, right before the Tiger Cave, on the road to Krabi



## ACROSS THE BAY

By Gus Reynolds



The Krabi College for Physical Education has not one, but two swimming pools (left) and a top-class 400-meter running track (below). But it's the staff who make the place really special.

Airport. The facilities and programs are a must for Krabi residents of all ages.

**A bit of downtime:** As we enter the low season, many business owners will be taking their own vacations, with many Westerners returning to their home countries for a visit.

Andy Gysin of the Roof Restaurant is taking two months to go back to Switzerland with his wife. The Roof will remain open, which will keep the local residents happy, as it has built a reputation as one of the better restaurants in Ao Nang.

The restaurant is part of The Krabi Seaview Resort, which Andy runs, along with his dive operation, Ao Nang Divers.

Other restaurants and bars are taking a wait-and-see approach.

Some are cutting back on hours of operations, while other have stated that they will remain open for the time being, but if it gets too quiet for too long a period, they will close and take a holiday.

So for now, the Viking Steak House on Ao Nang beach road will remain open, as will the mainstays along the same stretch, Wanna's Place and the Italian restaurants, Rialto and Lavinia.



**A sad departure:** People from all parts of Krabi were saddened to hear of the death in a car accident of popular Utain Moolas, or Uncle Loong as he was commonly known. Uncle Loong was the owner of Ao Nang Cuisine restaurant, the oldest restaurant in Ao Nang, facing the center of Ao Nang Beach.

Uncle Loong, 68, was always there to lend advice, share a beer and tell stories of his days in America where, as a young man, he worked a variety of jobs from car park valet to waiter.

After 10 years or so in the

States, he returned to Bangkok, his place of birth.

With his wife, he eventually arrived in Krabi, where they set up their first restaurant in Ao Nang 13 years ago. They didn't have much money then, sleeping on the kitchen floor for years until the business prospered.

His son recalls how his father told him that even though they didn't have

much money, if they all worked hard together as a family, some day they would succeed and have everything they needed. And that's just what happened. We miss you, Uncle Loong.

Some businesses are cutting back on hours ... while other have stated that they will remain open for the time being.

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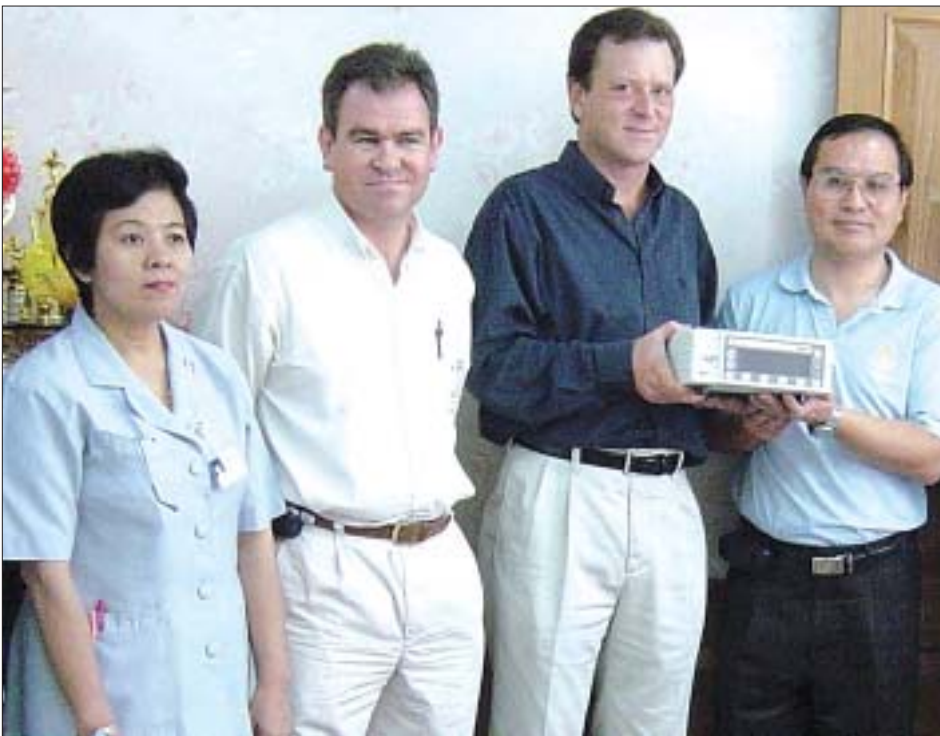
# This week



**MORRIS MINOR AND MAJOR:** "Just who *is* that masked man?" ask (from left) Supreeya Pande, Lies Sol, Ann Hanson and Poonpun Jangruga at the Green Man May Day celebrations.



**IT'S IN THE BAG:** Pol Col Chalit Kaewyarat (left) Superintendent of Chalong Police Station, accepts a donation of T-shirts from Land and Houses Park Phuket General Manager Ruksapong Khumkhuangjam.



**WAI US?** Above, Kannika Pethin (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Manager of the Body Rejuvenation Center on Mae Luan Rd, Phuket City, with staff at the center's recent grand opening.

**BBAP-A-LOOLA:** Left, Wachira Phuket Hospital receives a donation of medical equipment and toys bought from funds raised at British Business Association of Phuket's annual charity golf tournament. From left are nurse Arunee Khorphanlert, BBAP Deputy Chairman Damian Barrett, BBAP Chairman Martin Carpenter and Dr Tinnakorn Pongvivat, the hospital's Deputy Director.



**FRANKFURT FAM:** Above, Kata Thani Phuket Beach Resorts played host to travel agents from Meiers Far East during a recent familiarization trip. Frank Haussels (left), Marketing Manager of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Frankfurt office, led the group.

**SHELL GAME:** Left, Seatran Travel Company and radio station Nice FM88MHz joined forces in Green Project 5 at the Similans Marine National Park on May 1. Eager volunteers are seen distributing shells as new homes for hermit crabs.

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# The Green Man goes to the dogs

The Green Man Pub and Restaurant, on Patak Rd in Rawai, treated more than 100 island dog lovers to a first-class dog show on Sunday, May 16.

On hand to determine just which of the four-legged competitors had the waggiest tale, happiest face – and more – was All Breeds International Championship Judge Jackie Perry. Over 30 dogs took part in the event, which had classes for both pedigree and non-purebred pooches.



**TAKING A BOW WOW:** Wichai Chidchio owner of Phuket International Dog School on Koh Sireh tips his hat to the crowd.



This pleased pooch came in second in the 'smiliest dog' category.



**TO BE NUMBER ONE:** Fiona, a four-month-old Staffordshire terrier, won the prize for the best puppy in the show.



**PUPPY POWER:** Simbol, a Jack Russell terrier, is adept at locomotion using only the front two paws, or the back two paws, or all four.



**UNFAIR!** Joon, the Green Man's "house dog" and of indeterminate breeding, was eager to get into the show. But staff, thinking her a "low-class" dog, tied her up. She later staged a bid for freedom by biting through her leash.

# HOW

A career path from truck driver to make-up artist, with detours along the way as a soccer coach, salesman, marketing manager and bank teller, is an obviously circuitous one.

But for Phuket-born Natsongkit Kongchaiyan, 42, this long and winding road has brought him to a level of contentment where he can, as he puts it, "bring out a person's real strengths while hiding any weaknesses he or she may have".

His interests now are quite different from those of his youth.

One of his first loves was soccer, which he began playing seriously as a student at Ramkhamhaeng University.

After graduating with a degree in business administration, he stayed in Bangkok playing with and coaching Bangtoey Football Club – as a volunteer. For K. Natsongkit, knowing that he was giving something back to the community by helping the next generation was payment enough.

But after two years, he left Bangkok and football behind him. He knew that he had obligations to his family in Phuket and he joined the family firm as a truck driver.

The working days were long, usually from 6:30 am until midnight, but he still found time to apply for other, less physically demanding jobs.

Hoping to make better use of his degree than as a truck driver, he eventually found employment, first in Kasikorn Bank, then with Siam City Bank.

K. Natsongkit again applied his energies to this new career, but to him, something didn't feel quite right. He felt, he says, "like an outsider".

However, he spent 10 years in banking before taking his life

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# TO FACE UP TO DISASTER

in another direction, albeit a short-lived one, as marketing manager of Bangkok Phuket Hospital.

Sensing that this, too, was not the environment for him, and attracted by the higher salaries on offer as a salesman, he again changed jobs.

The business of selling household products and toiletries was good in the years before the economic crash of 1997 and K. Natsongkit's life was increasingly upwardly mobile. He received a small salary plus shares in the company and a slice of the profit.

The crash, when it came, affected him more than he could have predicted. The company folded, his salary disappeared, the shares became worthless. K. Natsongkit was penniless.

"In the days, then weeks and months that followed this, I was always looking for work, looking for any opportunity. But there was nothing," he said.

Then, from nowhere, an idea came to him.

He realized that he had spent years playing football out in the sun with no thought as to the effects of the ultraviolet light on his skin. He also came to understand that he had been embarrassed to face people, despite working in such customer-oriented roles as a bank teller and salesman.

He had shunned eye contact with customers and became careless about making working relationships last. Instead he had concentrated solely on his work. He began to realize that he was embarrassed by his own skin.

"My face used to be pitted,



Above, Natsongkit Kongchaiyan has finally found his calling, as a makeup artist (above) after years of trying different things, including soccer coach (right), truck driver and bank clerk – years in which he simply didn't like his own face.



my confidence up no end."

K. Natsongkit's favorite part of make-up work is around the eyes. "An eye has life, sparkle," he says. "Working around the eyes can take a long time but an exquisite masterpiece can never be done fast."

He notes an interesting distinction: "Some women may be beautiful, but not attractive, no matter what makeup you apply. But other women, perhaps quite ordinary-looking ones, can come alive if you apply the right artistry to their eyes."

There are, says K. Natsong-

kit, many golden rules that a makeup artist should follow. Perfect personal presentation is perhaps the No 1 rule, he believes, with empathy for the client coming a close second.

Empathize yes, but not get too close, as he relates in an anecdote.

"The husband of one of my customers became concerned at how often his wife and I were contacting each other. He was worried we were having an affair but it was a totally professional relationship, I assure you!"

Anyone interested in learning more about Natsongkit Kongchaiyan's makeup skills should call Tel. 01-9565122 for details.

## Another life

By Anongnat Sartpisut

and my complexion was very dark, and this came about from being out in the sun playing soccer," he explained.

The road to salvation – or at least a career – for this former truck driver was makeup.

"My sister's friend helped me by giving me some cosmetics for my face during the time I was unemployed," said K. Natsongkit. "It was an important turning point for me. I tried them and everything improved."

"I felt more confident using makeup, and was more at ease when meeting new people."

He began to wonder if he might be able to help other people

with makeup, in the same way that it had helped him.

"I trained under Mayuree Boonsen, the makeup artist ranked fourth in Thailand, for five months. Since then I have worked as a professional makeup artist."

"I know that this is the last of many careers for me."

"I wonder why women sometimes don't use cosmetics – a necessity for their daily lives," he muses.

"I know that it has helped to remove some of the problems on my face. In fact, my face has become more graceful and my hands softer since makeup became my life."

K. Natsongkit admits to having once been a bad-tempered man, quick to tell the blunt truth to someone. He was, as he de-

scribes it, a person of "fierce emotions". He reflects that many people – friends and colleagues from the days before he became a makeup artist – don't really understand the change that he has effected in himself. Most of the people he now knows are new friends and acquaintances.

He feels calmer, more patient and more energetic than he can remember.

He recalls working as resident makeup artist to the singers at the Baan Suan Beer Garden on Surin Rd. "It was so nice, and the customers were so happy," he says. "The singers and staff really encouraged me, and all my work for them was free of charge. It was worth it, as it built

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# Thailand TRAVELER

By Bill Owen

# Northern heart and soul

At every traffic light, our ever-friendly taxi driver kept insisting that his friend Kai had the best guesthouse in town – close to the night market, great rooms, good breakfasts and the cheapest Singha in town.

Not being a great fan of Singha, and remembering that our friends at the Amari Rincome had offered us a free room, we decided to stick to our original plan.

The Rincome is one of the oldest first-class hotels in Chiang Mai. It offers comfortable rooms, friendly staff and a great pool. It is certainly one of the best hotels in the north. It also makes a great base from which to explore Chiang Mai City and the provinces of the north.

Adrian, my old Irish mate, is still the chef there and produces some of the best Western food around. Wonderful Italian fare in the evenings, and certainly the best value east-meets-west lunch. If passing, pop in for a meal and say hi. He loves a chat over a cold beer!

We pay a visit to the night market – still a fun and bustling place to visit – and traditional Northern handicrafts are easy to find among the piles of fake designer goods.

One great place to relax after the strains of shopping is the terrace of Starbucks. They sell all the usual coffees but the Suriwongse Hotel, on the same terrace, provides the beers. It's a great place to indulge in a little people-watching.

Then off to the Riverside, a very large pub and restaurant on the bank of the Ping River – which flows through the city center.

It's a loud, fun place to hang out with the younger Chiang Mai set, and is one of the city's fa-



The Four Seasons Resort, about 15km outside Chiang Mai, is one of the resorts to visit in Thailand. It has stunning rooms and is surrounded by its own rice paddies

vorite evening haunts. Great food, too. Try the famous, wickedly hot Chiang Mai sausage, the perfect partner for the obligatory cold beer.

Keep an eye out for the bottle-spinning barmen, especially "Mad Max" – who spins and juggles his bottles faster than anyone I have seen before. He didn't break any when we were there, but he is reputed to smash three or four a night!

The 2 am shut-down is rigidly enforced here, so no late night haunts except for the inevitable noodle stalls. Try the ones near the flower market – itself a stunning sight at 3 am as the stalls are being set up.

The next day, we decide to

take the tortuous five-kilometer drive to Wat Phra That at the summit of Doi Suthep.

It's one of the province's most famous temples and, at 1,675m above sea level, allows splendid views – weather permitting – over the entire city and valley. Despite its commercialized feel and the many other tourists there, it's still well worth the trip for the views and the refreshing mountain breezes.

We decided to take lunch at the Four Seasons Resort, approximately 15km out of town.

This is one of the resorts to visit in Thailand, and is composed of a series of stunning Lanna-style pavilions overlooking the resort's own paddy fields,

complete with water buffalo and rice planters.

The restaurant is an excellent choice for lunch, especially to take in the whole ambiance of the place. The resort also has its own spa and cooking school, open to non-guests, but be prepared to take your credit cards – it's not cheap.

It is, however, a real "must do" for an afternoon of pampering. All we need now is a win on the lottery.

**How to get there:** Daily flights via Bangkok on Thai Airways. Check for special deals for locals and residents, which are now offered by TG. The best deal found recently was the "e-

Ticket" at a cost of 6,950 baht return. There are, however, many restrictions.

Air Asia also offers different deals but don't have any same-day connecting flights via Bangkok. Best deal found on their website was a one-way fare for 2,950 baht. An overnight stay in Bangkok is, however, necessary.

**Where to Stay:** Deluxe: Four Seasons Resort. Special bed/breakfast rate of US\$420 + 18% service charge and tax. Tel: 053-298181

First Class: Amari Rincome. Check the website or book direct. The best current deal is US\$60 for double room with breakfast. Tel: 053-221044. Website: <http://www.amari.com/rincome>

Economy/Guesthouse: Top North Guest Hotel near Tapae Gate has rooms from 600 baht per night. Tel: 053-278900.

Laithai Guest House, also near Tapae Gate, has rooms from 500 baht per night. Tel: 053-271534 or 271414.

**Getting out:** A good contact for any inquiries for soft adventure tours, trekking or mountain biking is Alex at Contact Travel Co Ltd. Call him on Tel: 053-818844 or check the website at [www.activethailand.com](http://www.activethailand.com).

Bill Owen has lived in Phuket and worked in Phuket's travel industry for more than 15 years. He can be contacted by email at: [owen\\_b@hotmail.com](mailto:owen_b@hotmail.com).

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# HEARD & scene

The Gazette's Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum went out and about and asked, "If you could meet yourself as you were five years ago, what advice would you give to your younger self, and why?"



**Ronnarong Ninnom**  
Age: 29  
From: Phuket  
Job: Photo shop owner

I would warn myself not to open a photo shop business. That way I would now be more independent, and would have more time to hang out with friends. Having your own business is really strenuous. I would prefer to be a driver (though not a "black taxi" driver). I feel I deserve a longer life than I am likely to get.



**Erin Renner**  
Age: 24  
From: USA  
Job: Student

I wouldn't give myself any advice because I like all my mistakes of the past five years. I've learned from them and they are, ultimately, the reason I am here in Thailand - every mistake I made inspired me to this point. So I wouldn't change anything. I just love being who I am right now and I am happy with what I have done.



**Matthew Cordell**  
Age: 25  
From: USA  
Job: Writer

I would tell myself to invest in some businesses that are doing really well right now. Probably, I would advise myself to invest in the stock market in particular. If I had started doing that five years ago my income would now be much higher than it is. I'd also advise myself to eat many more cheeseburgers.



**Terri Loran**  
Age: 24  
From: England  
Job: Health & safety adviser

I'd tell myself not to take things so seriously. Life under stress really made my head spin and I produced imperfect results when doing something. Also, I would tell my younger self to realize that everybody is different and nobody is perfect. I'd say, "Once you can accept that, you can start enjoying your life."



**Bumrung Udomlaksanawet**  
Age: 21  
From: Narathiwat  
Job: Student

I would tell my younger self to study more about the impact of drug abuse. No, I wasn't a drug addict myself, but I would like to have been able to warn or teach my friends not to get addicted to drugs. With more courage and more knowledge, I might have been able to pull my friend away from this disaster.

## In the Stars

by Isla Star

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21):** Geminis coming of age this week may be disappointed by low-key celebrations. This is a time to focus on quality, not quantity, in all areas of your life.



Where business is concerned, the potential to make a killing is strong. However, you will need to trust others and this may require an attitude adjustment.

**CANCER (June 22-July 23):** Plans are likely to founder in a sea of turmoil, but a well thought-out rescue plan could save the day. Don't refuse offers of help; someone close to you has wisdom to share. A rocky romantic period can be smoothed if you share your innermost desires. The number 6 has special meaning mid-week.



**LEO (July 24-August 22):** The going looks good for Leos. Your recent efforts to impress someone who can open doors have not been wasted. Mid-week should bring confirmation



of a deal made earlier this month that you thought had been forgotten. Your partner has interesting news that may involve a joint trip, combining business and pleasure.

**VIRGO (August 23-September 23):** This weekend is the right time to mingle, as new contacts may lead to surprising results. After Monday, you will be glad to maintain a low profile as your energy is likely to be low. Virgoans who feel under the weather next week are advised to take it easy for a few days, and eat lots of fresh fruit.



**LIBRA (September 24-October 23):** Achieving a balance between work and fun could be difficult this week. Invitations to paint the town red come flooding in and you won't want to miss out on a good time. If projects can safely be left simmering on the back burner, feel free to kick up your heels. But serious matters requiring attention should be finalized.



**SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):** Giving up a dream will be difficult, but realistic Scorpions must now be aware that any more effort put into a certain personal situation will be wasted. As soon as you can see the benefits of changing your long-term focus, you will be relieved not to have to pretend any more. Wear lemon yellow to center your energy.



**SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):** Seeing is believing for Sagittarians this weekend. Just when you were convinced that things weren't going according to plan, you receive proof to the contrary. Life is about to become a bowl of cherries, and all you have to do is relax and make the most of the golden opportunities about to come your way.



**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):** Too many steamy situations combine to turn this into a week when



you will have to watch your step. Your hackles are raised by an acquaintance's behavior. Handle this situation with caution. If you're unattached, Wednesday offers the chance of flirtation. But if you're already involved, don't play with fire as you're certain to get burned. The number 4 has special significance.

**AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):** A wild weekend is forecast. A visiting pal is likely to contact you and this may mean you must drop any plans for a quiet night in. Watch your finances; if you haven't managed to put something away for the rainy days to come, you'll need to tighten your belt.



**PISCES (February 20-March 20):** Indecisive Pisceans could find that their immediate destiny has been mapped out on their behalf. You may not be thrilled by the path that is revealed, but the benefits will make it a worthwhile journey. Don't play the middleman in business



arrangements unless the rewards are guaranteed. Doing someone a favor is one thing, but enabling others to boost their coffers due to your hard work is another.

**ARIES (March 21-April 20):** Arians are advised to undertake a radical spring-clean this weekend. Taking an objective look at your personal situation and being prepared to eliminate any dark forces will enable you to move on to a higher level. Certain people are sapping your positive energy, so leave them behind and move on. You can look forward to a cash bonus before the end of this month.



**TAURUS (April 21-May 21):** This month, the focus for Taureans is on romance. If your dreamboat hasn't yet sailed into sight, don't lose hope; love is set to light up your life before the end of this week. A career opportunity looks more likely to work out, but you should work on creating the right impression. Wear light blue to reflect coolness.



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Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are the names of at least 20 famous painters. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. See if you can find more than your family or friends. Score: More than 10, good; more than 15, very good; 20 or more, excellent.

O	P	O	L	L	O	C	K	T	P	O	O	S	R	K
M	L	D	R	C	K	E	M	P	Z	T	S	G	E	Z
K	Z	E	K	U	S	L	N	Z	I	T	S	Q	R	J
Z	Z	X	G	S	B	B	E	L	W	E	A	R	U	S
R	D	E	I	N	N	E	L	E	J	R	C	E	D	B
A	A	T	U	T	A	E	N	U	L	O	I	M	B	P
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M	N	N	V	I	A	L	E	B	P	N	R	R	J	T
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B	O	S	C	H	E	I	T	T	V	I	Z	T	A	I
Q	N	V	F	V	U	A	T	V	N	G	Y	B	J	A
C	O	Z	M	F	W	O	H	S	G	F	N	R	U	N
X	M	R	Q	B	G	P	K	P	L	O	H	R	A	W
N	I	T	E	D	G	I	R	H	A	H	O	X	M	G
H	R	E	R	B	W	L	X	J	B	R	X	T	J	T
B	O	U	C	J	C	L	A	C	O	E	S	V	H	Q
W	X	J	J	R	N	U	R	F	X	Y	O	F	J	K
B	F	X	H	A	S	N	R	Q	J	O	Y	F	S	C
N	A	V	L	S	C	B	T	B	N	P	S	N	H	F

Get your brain  
in gear with  
The Monster Quiz

1. Which American poet never used capital letters?

2. Who wrote *Twinkle, twinkle, little star*?

3. What disaster befell London in 1665?

4. What disaster befell London in 1666?

5. From what language does the word “coach” derive?

6. There are two words for the dimple in the bottom of a wine bottle. One is “punt”. What is the other?

7. What job did Perry Como have before becoming a professional singer?

8. By what name is Georgios Panayiotou better known?

9. What are the clouds of the planet Venus mostly made of?

10. Who co-authored *The Communist Manifesto* with Friedrich Engels?

11. Which country has a flag with horizontal bars of red, white and red?

12. Which US state is between Illinois and Ohio?

13. Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990?

14. Which Spanish explorer is credited with discovering the Mississippi?

15. Under what name did François Marie Arouet write?

16. Which US state is known as the Keystone State?

17. Lilongwe is the capital of which country?

18. Who lost the final of the soccer World Cup in 1974 and again in 1978?

19. If an insect is xylophagous, what does it consume?

20. Which newspaper bears the nickname “The Thunderer”.

Answers next week.

Never  
a Cross  
Word!

Across

5. Get too big for.

6. Transitory trend.

8. Possession.

9. Wood nymph.

11. This tiny bird can hover.

14. Employing.

15. Southern Japanese city.

18. Source of metal.

19. Beginner employee.

Down

1. Ado.

2. It’s a deal.

3. Throw slowly.

4. Market.

7. Nose.

8. Remnants of fire.

10. First prime number.

12. Not certain.

	1		2		3			4	
5								6	
						7			
8						9			
					10				
11	12								13
14						15		16	
					17				
18				19					

13. Code of life.

16. It’s halfway up your leg.

17. Provide weapons to.

Solution next week

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK’S MONSTER QUIZ

1. Liverpool; 2. Salt; 3. For all; 4. Ionosphere; 5. Surtsey; 6. Lao Tzu; 7. Ghana; 8. Amazon; 9. Chachoengsao; 10. Samuel Johnson; 11. Slim Dusty; 12. Paul Klee; 13. Wine; 14. Warren Moon; 15. Lauren Bacall; 16. Slash; 17. Tahitian; 18. Russia; 19. Stockbroker; 20. Rowed across the Atlantic.

Brain Buster!!

Q. Two cars came along the country road and stopped at a large gate, where they disgorged seven men. It began to rain and six of the men began to walk faster, but not the seventh. Yet they seven arrived at their destination together, and although the six who hurried were soaking wet, the seventh was dry. How was this possible?

A. The seventh was in a coffin being carried by the other six.

Solution to last week’s  
Crossword

M		L		U		A		H		H	
A	R	I	S	T	O	C	R	A	C	Y	
R		O		E		E		G		D	
T	E	N	A	N	T			O	G	R	E
Y				S				M		L	
R	A	B	B	I		E	L	E	C	T	
			U		L		X			R	
B	E	T	A			K	I	M	O	N	O
E		L		P		C		U		O	
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	S	C	U	P	
R		R		G		N		H		S	



The No 1 computer question I am asked is, "Which Internet connection should I get?" Up until a month ago, there were some pretty easy answers to that question. Now, everything has changed – in no small part due to the efforts of the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and the after-shock of monumental changes in the price of Internet access in Bangkok.

I'm still waiting to see which services deliver on their promises, and which amount to smoke and mirrors, but if you're in the market for a decent Internet connection, there are several good choices right now – and it looks as though there will be many more in the future.

Here are my recommendations, based on the experiences of people I know and trust:

For occasional use from a place that has a regular telephone line, the cheapest choice is still a pre-paid Internet service, those CD-size shrinkwrapped packages that include scratch cards with user IDs and passwords. All of the pre-paid packages run about the same speed: 25 Kbps on the McAfee Speedometer test (promos.mcafee.com/speedometer), with significantly poorer performance in the early evening and on weekends.

Don't use the 1222 telephone number but instead dial the "076" phone number of the Internet service provider (ISP). Go for the cheapest package available.

If you're going to use the Internet for an hour or less a day, get an hourly package. If you'll use it more, try one of the unlimited packages – Shark Byte from JI-Net seems to be the cheapest.

The next step up, GPRS mobile phone access from AIS, is a good choice if you don't mind spending 1,200 baht a month for unlimited access at roughly twice the speed of a standard dial-up land line. AIS service runs about 40 Kbps on the McAfee meter.

You'll need a mobile phone with GPRS capability, a way to connect the phone to your computer, and a telephone account with GPRS capability.



**GOOD NEWS:** The KSC Wi-Fi hotspot at Starbucks in Patong works beautifully. Click-click-click and you're online in less time than it takes to get your latte delivered.

## Internet prices go tumbling

The promotion is only good for six months, so plan on switching companies down the road.

Some people still swear by iSTAR, the satellite service by Shin Satellite. I've heard that the service itself is great – at least, if you use one of the newer dishes – and at 200 Kbps on the McAfee scale, it's about eight times as fast as a dial-up line. (The speed rating is less accurate if you do a lot of interaction with the computer – for example, if you play interactive games.)

The big downside with iSTAR is the billing method. Shin Satellite insists on charging by the bit, so even if you get a 3,000-baht-a-month package, you may end up spending two or more times that much if you do much Web surfing.

Next up the line are the 256K and 512K ADSL packages from various ISPs in conjunction with TOT (Telephone Organization of Thailand) and Thai Telephone & Telegraph (TT&T).

I had a JI-Net 256K ADSL line until a month ago, and I was paying a fortune for it. The prices have plummeted. JI-Net is now offering a 256K ADSL package for 3,000 baht – considerably less than half the price of the old package – which is supposed to include the TOT telephone line charge. (I say "supposed to" because I haven't seen it yet, and I've learned to be a bit, uh, skeptical about such things.)

If the new package works anything like the old one, it'll score about 200 Kbps on the McAfee scale.

By the way, if you order a JI-Net package, be careful to avoid the "DSL-Compax" package, which puts a limit on the amount of data you can download each hour. Also watch out for any DSL package that restricts you to using Thai servers only. It's amazing how many im-

portant Web sites around here aren't based in Thailand.

Remember the TT&T/CAT (Communications Authority of Thailand) package I talked about last week? It's the 2 Mbps ADSL package – eight times as fast as a 256K line – for 1,000 baht a month that meets the ICT Ministry's promise of fast, cheap access for Phuket.

Last Monday, TT&T told me they were withdrawing the offer, prompting

the tirade that appeared here in print last week. Last Thursday, TT&T showed up on my doorstep and installed the service. Go figure.

I ordered the "Premium" 2 Mbps package, which is supposed to deliver superior speeds for 2,860 baht a month, including telephone line charges.

My experiences have been spotty. The line has gone down several times, once for an entire day, but at the time of writing it's been up for three days non-stop. The speed runs all over the map: McAfee rates the connection anywhere from 40 Kbps (the speed of a GPRS mobile phone line) to 120 Kbps (about half the speed of the 256K JI-Net ADSL line), and the speed fluctuates like that at all hours of the day and night.

Not to be outdone, TOT/CAT have a new promotion: 256 Kbps ADSL including Internet service (that is, you don't need an ISP) for 500 baht a month. 512 Kbps costs 600 baht a month – and the prices are good until May 2005.

I will, being a Missourian (figuratively anyway), believe it when I see it. I ordered that package, and will keep you posted.

Woody Leonhard has written a number of books in the "...for Dummies" series on computing. Readers can contact him at: woody@khunwoody.com

# ROUGH RIDE THROUGH SCANDAL

How's this for a clumsy title? *The World's Greatest Sex and Scandals* (Chancellor Press, London, 2001, 567pp) is a compendium of four earlier books on royal, Hollywood, political and rock 'n' roll scandals. The anonymous authors range from the brilliant to the atrocious but all are unmistakably British.

The book begins with a bang: the Charles and Diana imbroglio. This chapter includes four pages of transcript from the infamous "Tampax Tape" conversation between Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles.

The author's rather catty conclusion: "Not only were people appalled at the Tampax exchange, they realized that they could not figure out Prince Charles at all. Here was a man who was married to one of the most beautiful women in the world, who was obviously besotted by a woman who, not to put too fine a point on it, needed ironing."

On we romp through other royal scandals, ending up with Grace Kelly (later Princess Grace of Monaco) who, I was shocked to learn, had slept with Gary Cooper, Clark Gable, Cary Grant, William Holden, David Niven, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Ray Milland, the Shah of Iran, Aly Khan and Oleg Cassini.

She even slept with two minor screenwriters. Talk about degeneracy!

This section on modern royalty, Hollywood stars, is the worst, written in the breathy, hackneyed, "Tinseltown" prose of the 1950s sleaze sheet *Confidential*. With Hollywood, the author has plenty of sleazy material to play with, but it's a shame that he never came across a cliché he couldn't use. Otherwise his narrative tone is insufferably arch:

"Vivien Leigh had a different close-up problem with Clark Gable while making *Gone With the Wind* (1939). Her love scenes with the 'King' were made almost unendurable by the blasts of fetid breath caused by his less than satisfactory dentures. Twenty-five years later, while making *Ship of Fools*, Leigh had an equally distressing close encounter of the vaporous kind with Lee Marvin when she was stifled by his alcohol-scented attentions."

We're on more solid ground with the author of the political scandals. He competently covers the Profumo scandal, Watergate, Iran-Contra, Monica Lewinsky, Evita Peron and Imelda Marcos.

He has the greatest fun with Conservative PM John Major's misinterpreted "Back to Basics" campaign. A whole slew of sex scandals suddenly unfurled in the press: a long sor-did parade of married Conservative MPs caught with other women, men and boys, with one worthy asphyxiating himself while dressed in woman's underwear.

Finally we arrive in the land of rock 'n' roll scandals – Elvis, Jimi, Janis, the Stones, Bowie, Boy George, Ozzie Osbourne, Michael Jackson – and in the hands of a brilliant writer who really knows his stuff.

Here he is on the long-lasting, iconic band Pink Floyd: "The compact disc generation bows down in humble deference to the glory of the Floyd, for this band is just as fat, just as disillusioned and, ultimately, just as useless as they are."

A high point of this section, as might be expected, is the chapter on Keith Moon, deranged drummer of The Who, of whom Pete Townshend said in 1970: "The production of our records has got nothing to do with sound. It's got to do with trying to keep Keith Moon on his f— drum stool."

Our author introduces Keith Moon with these words:

"Now and again, the mighty Gods of sweet serendipity smile on the beleaguered beacons of tabloid journalism and come up with a character so awesomely dangerous and dedicated to the perpetual pursuit of the offensive, the surreal and the illegal that not even the slightest degree of newshounding is necessary. The stories write themselves, arriving at the office in glorious rounded form, with a beginning, middle and end, none of which are especially believable but all of which conspire in a recipe of prime shock-horror."

"Keith Moon was such a character."

And so, on this literate high note, the book goes out.

## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

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# Down a tunnel full of misery

Playing golf, using a computer keyboard, operating a jackhammer, playing the piano, riding a motorcycle, making *somtam*... Spot the connection? You should, as the answer is in the palm of your hands or, more accurately, just between your palm and your wrist.

It's "tardy median palsy" or, to give it its modern moniker, carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS).

CTS affects around one in 100 people – although women, particularly in their 30s to 50s, are five times more likely to develop it than men. The symptoms can all too easily be dismissed as being caused by one of a host of lesser conditions.

Recently, it might have been called "golfer's wrist", which is similar to "trigger finger", "housemaid's knee" or "tennis elbow", but giving it a quaint name does not relieve the pain and distress it causes.

Dr Jiradesh Khaosoong, an orthopedic surgeon at Phuket International Hospital, has specialized in the diagnosis and treatment of this condition for more than 15 years.

He sees about four patients a week suffering from CTS, but believes that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

"Although people are moving away from repetitive, heavy manual work, there seems to be little reduction in the number of cases," says Dr Jiradesh, adding that CTS can be caused by leisure activities just as easily as by heavy labor.

The carpal tunnel, or ligament, is a fat tube of strong tissue in the wrist through which the tendons of the hand and the median nerve pass. The median nerve serves the thumb, the index and middle fingers, and part of the ring finger.

Anything that reduces the free space in the carpal tunnel, such as fluid or inflammation of the tendon coatings, exerts pressure on the median nerve. It's believed that any repetitive use of the hand tendons can cause the coatings to become inflamed.

Two of the more common symptoms are a "pins-and-needles" sensation or numbness of the hand, often in the middle of the night. Many people dismiss these as caused by something innocuous, such as having lain on one's arm for too long. Indeed, some studies suggest that lying on one's arm can contribute to CTS. Fractures of the wrist are another potential catalyst for CTS.

More unpleasant symptoms include aching or burning sensations in the hand and in the digits served by the median nerve.

Sufferers find some short-term relief by vigorously shaking their hands but

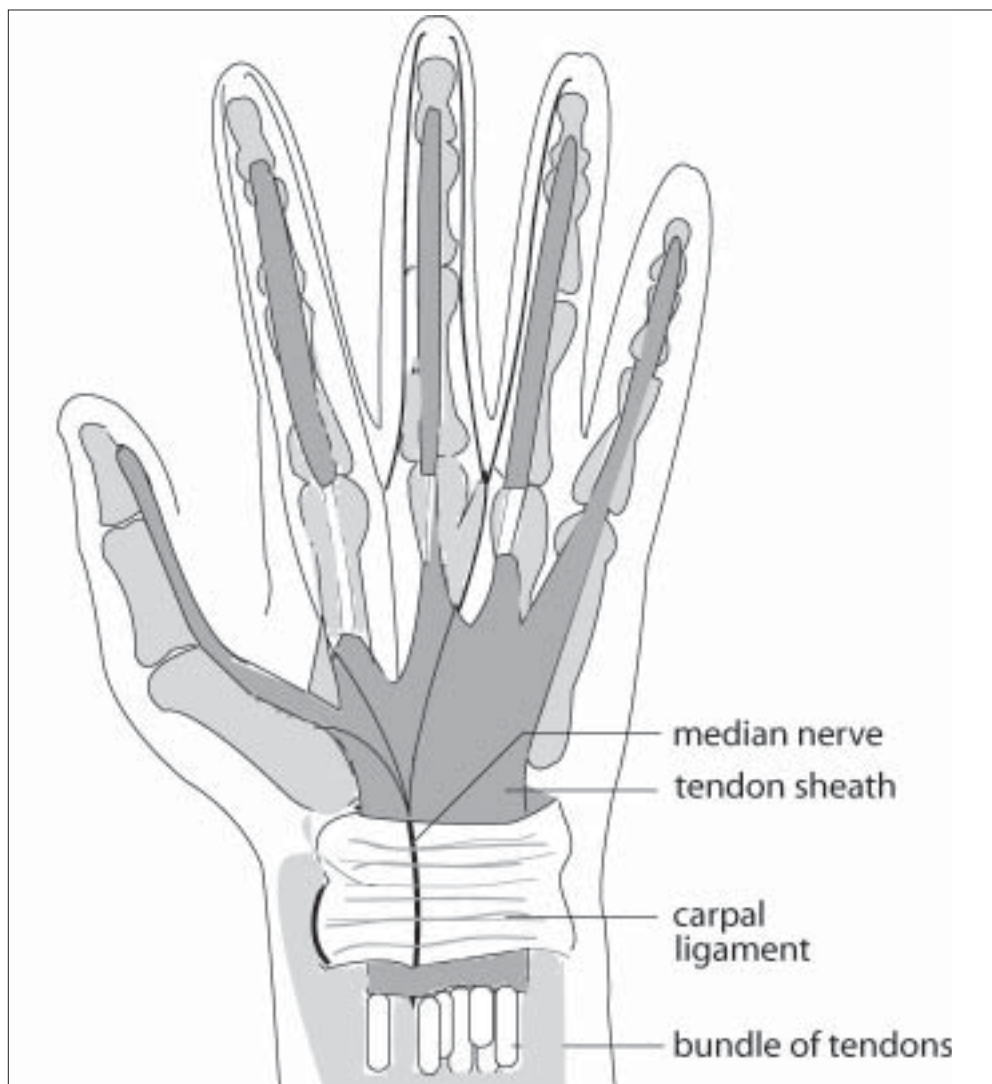
if the condition is left untreated, symptoms can over time spread to the arm and shoulder.

It is a progressive condition and as it invariably worsens, symptoms may become chronic. The hand muscles weaken, making it difficult to grip objects and perform routine actions, such as writing.

A permanent loss of feeling can occur, and day-to-day life becomes increasingly difficult. People with CTS can appear clumsy or accident-prone.

Once CTS has been diagnosed, Dr Jiradesh recommends surgery. The operation, called carpal tunnel release, involves cutting the carpal ligament to make more space for the nerves and tendons in the carpal tunnel. The operation takes about 20 minutes.

Sutures are removed after 10 to 14



Tendons and the median nerve all pass through the carpal ligament, or tunnel.

days, and full recovery takes anywhere from a few weeks to two months, though Dr Jiradesh reports that most patients notice an improvement within a few days of the initial soreness wearing off.

Scarring is generally indistinct, as the result of the incision will often blend into one of the lines on the palm.

For anyone who experiences discom-

fort in the hands on a regular basis, particularly anyone who likes to swing a golf club or to spend all day tap-tap-tapping at a keyboard, it may be time to do a little modern palm reading.

*Dr Jiradesh Khaosoong, MD, FICS, Orthopedic Surgeon, Phuket International Hospital, Tel: 076-249400.*

# A witness can prevent a court case

This cautionary tale concerns a foreign man who went into business in Phuket with his Thai wife. Full of hope for prosperity, he listed her as a shareholder and employee of his fledgling enterprise.

But when their personal relationship soured – they were getting a divorce – so did their business partnership.

In the end, the man found himself tangled in a legal web that put him on the police blacklist, which meant he could not leave the country.

In an act of revenge, the wife (soon to be ex-wife) went to file criminal charges against her husband for misappropriating her shares in the company. She charged that he did this by filing a "change of shareholders" notice at the Commercial Registration Office that contained a forged signature.

Then the legal battle started. The husband, who was also company director – let's call him Mr A – was forced to take a trip to the local police station. He was charged with misappropriation,

which is a criminal offense. Thus charged, he had to request bail and post a considerable sum.

After an initial investigation by the police, the case was forwarded to the prosecutor's office. This meant Mr A was again required to apply for and post bail.

But the police could not return his police bond on the same day, as the procedure requires issuing a check of the same amount. Such a check can only be signed by the station's superintendent, who happened to be unavailable at the time. Mr A was therefore detained for quite some time.

In the end, the prosecutor's office threw out the police case. Not willing to give in, however, the wife appointed a lawyer and filed the criminal charges directly with the court.

Her attorney put forward a rather unique *either... or* charge. With more than a hint of fuzzy



## LAYING DOWN THE LAW

With Friedrich 'Sam' Fauma

At the airport, he was stopped by Immigration Police and he learned that his name had been entered on a government blacklist.

logic, they told the judge that *either* the signature had been forged, *or* it wasn't forged, but that she hadn't understood the terms of the document because it was only in English, not her native language.

The court accepted the charge and Mr A had to post bail a third time.

When the case finally came to trial, Mr A's lawyers were able to produce evidence establishing that rather than being ignorant of the English language, his wife had long been in the em-

ploy of well-known international firms and had an impressive educational background.

In the end, the wife admitted that the signature was hers,

but nevertheless maintained that she signed the document not knowing its true import.

Ultimately, Mr A won the case. The plaintiff, by now his ex-wife, appealed.

Thinking himself a free man, and needing a break after all this legal wrangling, Mr A decided to take a trip to his home country. At the airport, he was stopped by Immigration Police and he learned that his name had been entered on a government blacklist.

He would not be allowed to leave the country. The flight took off without him, and the price of an air ticket was added to the growing list of expenses this dispute with his ex-wife had cost him.

Although he had won his case and was thus deemed "innocent until proven guilty" pending appeal, removal from the government blacklist is not automatic.

It involves hiring a lawyer to apply for its removal, and the payment, of course, of more lawyer's fees.

A few months later, the

Appeals Court dismissed his ex-wife's case. Mr A was happy that justice had, at last, been served.

But the whole ordeal had cost him a lot in time, expense and mental anguish.

The whole matter could have been avoided if he had simply arranged a witness to watch his wife sign the transfer document.

*This column is compiled from the collective experience of the partners in the International Law Office, Phuket City. Tel: 076-222191-5. Fax: 076-222-196. Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th.*

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## Why the darkness?

The ongoing saga of the siting of Phuket's proposed International Conference and Exhibition Center (ICEC) took another unexpected turn last week when Phuket Governor Udomsak Usawarangkura suggested that Koh Maphrao (Coconut Island), off Phuket's east coast, and just north of Phuket City, might be a suitable location for the mega-project.

Gov Udomsak, an unelected official, is to be commended for trying to introduce momentum to a project that has ground to a halt from local opposition to having the ICEC at Saphan Hin, a flat and unremarkable strip of land currently noted for its teenage violence and trash incinerator.

In the government's public opinion poll in February last year, Phuket residents voted overwhelmingly in favor of the proposed Tah Chat Chai site, winning 226 votes compared with just 17 for Saphan Hin.

And rightly so. The idea to have the ICEC at Saphan Hin flies in the face of reason and has long been opposed even by the Phuket City municipality as impractical because it's too distant from hotels and the airport, not to mention the incalculable effect it would have on the city's worsening traffic problem.

For reasons never clearly explained – other than the suggestion that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra had a “vision” when visiting the area a few years ago – the central government would still like to site the project on reclaimed land off Saphan Hin.

The government thus shows itself as inexplicably dismissive of local concerns, leaving many residents suspicious of its motives. Some seem to feel that its decision may be based on nothing more than benefit to the construction companies who ultimately win the huge contracts to build the 3-billion-baht center – and the politicians who approve them.

Others, noting the protracted and deafening silence of the central government's “consultations with the Thai people” about legalizing gambling, feel that a casino in Phuket is a foregone conclusion – and that the siting of the ICEC is inextricably wound up in this.

While the governor's suggestion of an alternative site is a step forward, it also raises concerns over whether the government will be dismissive of yet another, smaller group of local residents' wishes.

Koh Maphrao is home to about 1,000 mostly Muslim villagers, whose families have been living there for generations.

Whether the government is prepared to deal fairly with this minority's rights to occupy the land – in order to build a convention center which many feel we do not need – remains to be seen.

– The Editor

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## Letters

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with your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

### Inform immigration before visa expires

During our holiday, my husband had an accident and required an operation on his back. While in hospital, we had to change our return flights as he was unable to travel. I did not visit the Immigration Department as they told me that my husband must go in person.

We did visit when he had been discharged, taking his medical certificate detailing his operation with us. They would not look at the certificate and said that he had to pay a 1,000-baht, five-day overstay fine. My husband's visa was then extended for a week – to allow recuperation – at a cost of 1,900 baht.

The Immigration Department were very unhelpful, and made us feel embarrassed and as if my husband's overstay had been deliberate.

Perhaps I was wrong, but I thought that the Immigration Department was there to provide a service to foreigners.

Mrs Cochrane  
England

*Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen, Deputy Inspector of the provincial Immigration Office, was asked to comment by the Gazette.*

*He said that there are no exemptions from fines once the overstay has occurred. He said that in Mr Cochrane's case, someone should have contacted Immigration on his behalf while he was in hospital.*

*However, he said that a person with no one to assist on their behalf may appeal to the main Immigration office in Bangkok on this basis. "They will use their*

*discretion to decide if the appellant is liable for the fine or not," the officer said.*

### Paid classifieds are very bad for business

I have been a reader of the *Gazette* for many years but I think your policy of charging for almost all classified advertisements is a very bad idea and will cost you many customers.

I will not recommend your paper anymore.

Till Koschig  
Phuket

*All classifieds in the hard-copy Phuket Gazette are paid, with the price at 60 baht per line (since June 1996). More than 80% of the ads in the Gazette Online are free of charge, but spam in six of our 30 categories forced us, in October 2003, to require that ads in those categories, if accepted, also run in the hard-copy Gazette, where they are paid.*

– Editor

### Retailers challenged to curb road chaos

The *Gazette's* recent story highlighting the problems of road development (*Gazette* Inside Story May 8) provided plenty of food for thought. One item of particular interest was the report of the widening of the bypass road, scheduled to start on May 7.

I have seen no indication yet that any work has begun or is even about to begin. And it's way overdue.

The big stores – Tesco, Big C and Central Festival – along the

“Golden Mile” make or stand to make huge profits. Yet their managers appear to ignore the bedlam of traffic trying to enter or leave the stores. Too busy counting their takings, no doubt.

I challenge these mega-stores to do something about it NOW, because a footbridge and a couple of security guards just aren't enough. Any takers?

Hannah Glück  
Rawai

PS I can't wait to see the hills being made less steep [*Gazette* Inside Story, May 8-14]. Well done, Mr Governor. What's next, nailing Jello to the ceiling?

### Good cops, bad cops

There are many reports of bad behavior by police in Phuket, but there is also the occasional story that casts a better light on them.

I was driving along the Kata beach road recently when my mobile phone rang, so I pulled over to answer the call. I didn't realize it was a “no-parking zone”.

I had been speaking for about 30 seconds when a police cruiser pulled up. I thought that a generous donation to the widows and orphans Christmas fund was expected of me, but I was wrong.

The officer could hardly have been more polite or professional. His English was reasonable, he called me “sir” and courteously explained that I couldn't park where I had. I gave him a cheery *kor thot* and a *wai*, and he saluted me.

It's easy to be cynical, but there are both good and bad apples everywhere.

Seb Melmouth  
Cherng Talay

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.



# Tackling the trouble with Rawai

## FIRST PERSON

The idea of the PNAC is that if members find government officers involved in corruption, we will know how to advise villagers what to do about it.

The problems in Rawai, particularly garbage and encroachment, have been going on for eight years, and the *OrBorTor* still can't solve them. The big problem now is garbage. Rawai is a tourist area and if we let it fill up with rubbish, who will come here?

The *OrBorTor* should come out to meet local people and co-operate with them, not just let villagers and student volunteers keep the place clean.

As for the vendors along Rawai Beach, the *OrBorTor* put together a plan to move them to a new place prepared especially for them. The *OrBorTor* said in May last year that they would manage the vendors to bring everything into order.

But they can't do [what they said they would do], and I don't know what the problem is, or why they are still waiting.

There was a similar problem at Nai Harn Beach. We in the PNAC knew that there was a building there belonging to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*). The building was complete but had sat unused for a long time.

So we got permission [from the *OrBorJor*] to move the vendors from Nai Harn Beach to that building and to organize them properly.

We collect 10 baht a day from each restaurant and use the money to employ local people to keep the place clean for tourism.

It's the same with the Rawai vendors; they want to obey the Rawai *OrBorTor*'s orders and

Sang Chanalert, a former Headman of Village 1 in Tambon Rawai, was appointed President of the People's Network Against Corruption (PNAC), Muang District, when the PNAC was set up last year.

The PNAC has about 30 members including community leaders, villagers and members of tambon administration organizations (*OrBorTor*).

As a Rawai resident, K. Sang is particularly concerned with problems involving the *OrBorTor* in his home tambon, as he explains here.



move, but the new place still doesn't have electricity or toilets. Before they tell vendors to move, the *OrBorTor* should first be well prepared.

A good administrator could manage this, but it depends on whether the *OrBorTor* is really interested. Actually, the *OrBorTor* has the power to close down the restaurants if it wants to, but the provincial government has a policy that the restaurants should be managed properly instead.

The *OrBorTor* council should cooperate with villagers to check on the work of the administrative team. But in fact the council and administrative sections are on the same side.

When we file a complaint or forward suggestions from villagers to the council, they are supposed to discuss it in the regular *OrBorTor* meeting so that the administrative section can explain what they are doing.

But it doesn't happen like that. The council doesn't even put the issue on the agenda for discussion.

[The *OrBorTor*] have to know and look into what people want, so that management will be easier. We have forwarded people's opinions to *OrBorTor* Rawai, but they never discuss these issues in their meetings.

For example, in the old days, *OrBorTor* Rawai set aside a budget to employ staff to collect garbage along the beach. But where is the budget for this now? When we ask them this question, they tell us that they can't get anyone to work like this.

In the old days, [neighboring] *OrBorTor* Chalong had a small budget and the management and administration were not good. But the current council manages the tambon very well, even though they still have the same budget.

For example, they can cope with emergency problems like flash floods because they have all the equipment ready.

But *OrBorTor* Rawai has to ask the provincial government to provide equipment to handle flooding. Communities have

asked for administrative power to be devolved to local organizations so they can deal with this sort of problem themselves. So why, when there's a problem, do they still have to ask the provincial government for help?

They can set their own budgets in preparation for things like this. Last year *OrBorTor* Rawai had about 73 million baht of its budget left over. They just keep it in the bank. They don't use it.

After learning about the problems with *OrBorTor* Rawai, we filed requests with many organizations, in an effort to get the *OrBorTor* to disclose official information to the public.

The process usually has to be done step-by-step – collecting signatures from villagers to compile a petition, then proposing changes to the *OrBorTor*.

Then, if the *OrBorTor* does nothing, we take the petition to the district office and then eventually to the provincial government.

Another problem [in Rawai] is encroachment on public

land. People have complained to us [about two cases involving the same investor building resorts on public land].

We have filed complaints with the Phuket provincial government and they are now waiting for district officers to check, step by step, which is quite a slow process. Some of the officers may be corrupt, too.

In the future this problem [of encroachment] will probably be solved. But I don't think the present *OrBorTor* administrative team can solve it, also because of corruption.

But if the *OrBorTor* doesn't order the resort dismantled, we at the PNAC will file a complaint against its officers for not performing their duty.

It looks as though the police will probably arrest only the developer, who is a front man for the real investor.

In fact [to build a case against the investor], it's easy to check from bank accounts if any suspicious transfers of money have been made.

These investors are mostly high-level government officers because normal people wouldn't dare to do something like this.

If there are any *OrBorTor* officers who are involved in this matter, we will pursue them. We may complain to the Governor and to the National Counter Corruption Commission (NCCC) in Bangkok.

The resort will definitely affect the environment because when the rain comes it will wash the soil into the sea and ruin the coral. Other people who earn a living from tourism at Nai Harn, such as boat operators and restaurateurs, will also be affected.

What will they do after this happens?

## How do I obtain a Thai yacht skipper's license?

I am a foreigner with a Non-Immigrant O Visa. I am also married to a Thai woman. I would like to get a Thai skipper's certificate for a boat of up to 30 tons displacement.

I don't have a work permit. I just want to cruise around with my boat. Where do I have to go and what do I have to bring?

Beached Sailor  
Chalong

**Kittipong Wasukri of the Phuket Marine Office replies:**

You must come to the Phuket Marine Office and bring with you the following:

- Your passport and a letter from a consulate or embassy of your home country verifying that the passport is genuine, accurate and valid;

- Three two-inch photos of yourself;

- A medical certificate verifying that you are fit to skipper a boat;

- If you have it, a certificate to show that you have two years' experience or more as captain of a yacht;

- If you have an existing master's certificate from another country, you should bring it with you for us to look at.

We may be able to issue you with a Thai license without you having to take a test.

You do not need a work permit but we must be sure that you have the relevant knowledge to skipper a boat.

The size of the boat is irrelevant. The license states only the function on a boat that the holder

may perform – skipper or engineer for example.

If we decide that you must take a test, you should be aware that although the regulations are already available in English, the information booklet to help prepare for the test is currently available only in Thai.

An English translation is being done and will be completed soon. The price of the booklet is 500 baht.

Examination papers, too, are only in Thai, but you may bring a translator to the exam with you.

The Phuket Marine Office has already received authority from the Marine Department in Bangkok to issue Thai captains' certificates to foreign skippers.

## Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Can't understand some of the dafter things that seem to go on in Phuket? Want to pitch an idea to Phuket's authorities or institutions? Then this is the forum for you. Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## A new Kathu-Kamala road?

I have been hearing of a proposed direct road linking Kathu and Kamala direct. Is this correct? If so, is there a date for the construction to begin?

Steve Bragg  
Kamala

**Siwa Tin-Phang-Nga, Deputy District Engineer of the Phuk**

**ket Highways Office, replies:**

We have no have plan to construct a new road from Kathu to Kamala, but we will be resurfacing parts of the existing road. Resurfacing will be undertaken between the shrine at the top of Patong Hill and Patong itself, and between the Kalim intersection and Kamala.



# Down in the vault with a secret curry

It wasn't that the Brits invented curry, though it's just possible that they did invent the word. According to Sandeep Pande, Executive Chef at The Green Man, during the time of the Raj it was difficult for English colonists to classify all the various Indian dishes – from vindaloos to massalas – so they just called them all “curries”.

“If you ask an Indian in India today what a curry is, he would just stare blankly at you and ask, ‘What are you meaning, a curry?’” said Sandeep.

What is meant by a curry at The Green Man's Thursday luncheon is a true “colonial curry”.

“The main thing with the colonial curry is that we have many different accompaniments,” says Sandeep.

These include crushed peanuts, fried garlic slivers, grated coconut, raisins, chopped bananas, chopped tomatoes, chopped onion.... and so on.

These particular types of colonial curries are beef, prawn, prawn and egg, lamb and chicken, the last two alternating on a weekly basis. They are made from old recipes passed down by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

“They are slightly sweeter than the usual curries and not so hot,” says Sandeep. “That's the way the *memsahibs* liked them.”



Intrigue, and a wide variety of toppings, have allowed the Green Man's Thursday luncheons to curry favor with island residents.

## EDGEWISE

By John Gilpin

The man responsible for obtaining these rare recipes for discerning curry-loving Phuketians is Chris Hill, a former employee of The Bank (as it was known in Hong Kong), now retired in Phuket.

“We had a curry lunch at The Bank mess every Thursday, not only in Hong Kong but in other parts of the world where I worked,” says Chris. “And we would also have curries on Bank junk trips. On Fridays it would be fish, of course.”

The story of how Chris managed to obtain these

priceless recipes has become a legend in its own lunchtime. One version has it that the recipes were originally the property of Chinese mandarins involved in the opium trade.

The Bank acquired them in exchange for a large shipment of the deadly drug and had then placed them in a secret vault at The Bank headquarters in London. The vault became exposed when the building was sold to a bingo consortium.

Though of course Chris denies this, it is said that he bribed The Bank's Chief Security Officer to let him have the recipes, which were handwritten on parchment and hidden away inside the tube of an A-sized Montecristo cigar from Havana.

The story here becomes rather complicated because The Bank was apparently not aware that Chris Hill was working for it at the time, and Chris himself was not clear whether or not he was working for – or ever had worked for – The Bank.

Mystery surrounds the transfer of the precious documents from London to the hostelry on the road to Kata, just west of Chalong Circle in Phuket, Thailand, though it is rumored that several people were killed or poisoned in transit.

Some of the rare ingredients in the original mandarin curry recipes, which I am not at liberty to reveal, may have caused some untimely deaths. The present proprietor of the above-mentioned hostelry swears that these ingredients have now been completely removed from the menu.

Further details of the Curry Powder Plot may be obtained by attending the weekly Thursday curry luncheon at The Green Man starting at 1 pm.

Special discounts may be arranged for those who wish to carry the luncheon through to Thursday night Quiz Night. For obvious reasons, questions will be limited to such brain-busters as: “What is your name?” and “Where are you?”

No deaths by HSBC curry should be reported to the police.

# At last - something to tickle yer funny bone

Well I can hardly contain myself: live stand-up comedy is finally coming to Phuket, featuring a touring trio of rib ticklers, all from the legendary Comedy Club in London.

The gig takes place on May 26 at The Watermark in the Boat Lagoon (if you have never been there, don't let that put you off – it's very easy to find and well signposted).

The venue, along with assorted sponsors who are a mixed bag of good eggs from the local business community, have committed themselves to two more events in the coming year, in September and November, after which they will take stock and look at whether it is worth continuing or not.

Given the frankly fickle tastes and sedentary nature of our



By Konrad Stalin

expatriate community I think this is wise.

Tickets are 2,500 baht a head, which includes a splendid feed at one the island's top five nosheries.

So, if you have ever moaned that we don't have any comedy here, or have groaned about the lack of quality live entertainment here in our little paradise, you'll be booking right now. Right?

**Right formula:** I was invited up to Dominick Mangiameli's Hill-

top hotel to watch the F1 a few weeks back. I'd not been up before and was knocked out. It's terrific and Dominick is rightly proud as punch.

Huge rooms, a great layout and large seaward balconies, tasteful decor and überfriendly staff have shoved it near the top of places I recommend to mates when they are visiting.

I could not believe the room rates either, trust me, they are very, very reasonable. Didn't try the food yet but will certainly be there for the next F1.

I don't even like F1, I mean how could any Englishman get any pleasure out of watching a German beating the crap out of everyone else again and again, and having the cheek to do it in an Italian car?

However, I did like what are referred to as the Pit Stop Girls who were helping out with service on the day. Call Dominick for more details.

**Hair guitars:** A little gem on Soi Sea Dragon: Freddy has managed to attract several of the local musicians to jam in his Coyote bar every night, starting about 10:30. Expect hair, and lots of it.

The bands are excellent and the place has a real buzz about it despite its one-shop size.

About 10 of the island's pseudo-rock gods perform during the course of the evening and some of 'em are right tasty play-

ers, especially the bass player who rocks up after midnight. Buskers are encouraged.

This is the first real jam I've seen on the island. I guess these things have to emerge by themselves; many people have tried to get them going commercially in the past and failed.

**Hat's off:** Margarita on the corner of Bangla and Rat-U-Thit is undergoing a redesign at the moment and the Mexican Hat round bar has finally gone.

I dunno if this is a good move. Several years ago, along with former manager, Steve, and legendary DJ Paul “Only Me” Norris, I had the enjoyable task of the first major redesign of this venue and from the outset we all wanted the Hat Bar out of there.

But then we noticed it had a hard core of free-spending regulars during the week and when we analyzed the figures from that bar alone, we were quite shocked. So we kept it.

Rock, the new manager, was keeping his cards close to his chest about the ultimate nature of the redesign but has been talking to lighting guru “Bigman” Mark Cain about the venue.

Bigman counts Hard Rock Café, Planet Hollywood and several of Singapore's top night spots amongst his former clients, so the lighting should be groovy.

At present it looks like a lot of other little bars. I hope this is not the direction. I feel, that, rather like mobile phone shops, we have enough of those.

**Shell game:** Valhalla was heavily involved in the recent Balut World Championships held at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort.

More than 270 people from all over the world gathered to play this popular dice game and a top time was had by all.

Previously I had thought Balut was a Filipino egg dish, but it appears I was wrong. [In fact, you're right, Konrad. The game was named after the dubiously delicious dish by its inventor – Editor.]

If you have not checked out the afternoon scene at Valhalla you should: a steady crowd of local ladies take advantage of the free-sauna-and-pool offer in the late afternoon, and a rather pleasing-on-the-eye impression it leaves, too.

**Corruption!** No credible evidence has emerged that I take bribes to write about things as alleged by a certain reader a few editions ago. So I expect his profuse apology got lost in the post, was never written or, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, he is still sat in huddled groups slugging me off and believing that it's true because he says so. My offer still stands, Sunshine.

Konrad Stalin may be reached at [konradstalin@hotmail.com](mailto:konradstalin@hotmail.com).

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# Phuket to gain from Thai-Aussie FTA

By Anongnat Sartpisut

PHUKET: Many businesses on the island are optimistic about the effect of the Thailand-Australia Free-Trade Agreement (Tafta), expected to go into effect on January 1 next year.

At that time, Thailand will eliminate tariffs on 49% of its 5,505 listed Australian imports and Australia will do away with tariffs on 83% of its 6,108 committed products.

Panjit Pissawong, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Commercial Office, told the *Gazette*,

## On the Move

The new Chief Judge of Phuket Provincial Court is **Chalerm-**

**pong Khantee**, 47, from Trang.

He is a law graduate of Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok and the Bar Institute of

Thailand. Before taking up his new post, Judge Chalermpong was the Chief Judge at the Nakhon Sri Thammarat Juvenile Court.



**Yongyuth Kasetsuntorn**, 56, from Songkhla, has been appointed Chief



of the Phuket Business Development Office (BDO). K. Yongyuth has a law degree from Thammasat University

and a master's degree in public administration from the National Institute of Development Administration. His experience includes 11 years of work at the Songkhla BDO.

**Jiraporn Supich**, 42, has been appointed Executive Assistant



Manager - Marketing at the Deevana Patong Resort & Spa. K. Jiraporn is a graduate of the International Hotel and Tourism Industry Management School, in Bangkok. Her experience includes working as Director of Sales at Tri-Asia Co Ltd and at Bangkok Golf Spa Resort, and as Director of Sales & Marketing at the Panwa Beach Resort.

"Phuket retailers and consumers will benefit because we import many meat and dairy products from Australia. Australian investors will also be able to invest in Phuket's marine leisure and tourism industries with lower capital costs."

One of the major outcomes of Tafta is that Australian investors will be able to hold up to 60% of shares in projects requiring "high investment". Currently, Australian investment in Thai companies is limited to 50%.

High on the list of items marked for tariff reduction is Australian wine, with initial cuts of more than 15%. While this is regarded as a positive move towards boosting the sale of wine

on the island, some figures in the industry remain guardedly optimistic.

Steven Roberto, Wine and Beverage Director of Baan Rim Pa Group, explained, "Because taxes in Thailand presently more than triple the cost of imported wine, any reduction in the duty would benefit consumers."

"But the government has non-tariff barriers it could bring into play, and I am already hearing grumbling from importers about subtle and not-so-subtle pressures being put on them not to increase imports in response to the lower duty."

"It is too early to know what the eventual outcome will be. My attitude is one of wait and see."

While noting that import documentation procedures could still be used to deter wine importers, he said the real beneficiaries of the cuts would be wine drinkers who would benefit from greater selection and lower costs.

"This would help strengthen Thailand's reputation as a cosmopolitan holiday destination in Asia," he said.

Phuket's building industry is also set to gain from the tariff reductions. Thai Bondall's Phuket branch manager, Waleeporn Chinpised, told the *Gazette* that the Tafta agreement would benefit Phuket by reducing the cost of Australian imports, which have a strong position in the construction products market.

"I just went to the Architect 2004 Trade Exhibition in Bangkok and noticed that half of the imported products came from Australia," she said.

Thai Bondall has already enjoyed import tax reductions ranging from 5%-20% earlier this year, she said, adding to the competitiveness of the company's annual imports valued at about 600,000 baht.

"But it would be great news if the taxes were eliminated altogether," she said. "If taxes are eliminated, the cost of our products would drop about 20-25%."

"With current costs and import tariffs, we have to sell our products at about double the actual purchase price."

Investors in world stock markets enjoyed good gains in 2003 and initially in 2004. However, with recent losses in almost all stock markets, many investors are now looking at negative returns for 2004.

There is an enormous amount of uncertainty at present in both stock markets and foreign exchange markets. In the latter it would be a brave investment house that took any medium-term position on any major currency. Instead, institutions are generally avoiding this area or are playing it on a very short-term basis.

The one exception to this is Sterling, which is obviously overvalued against the US dollar and the Euro. However, Sterling is being "propped up" by the Bank of England Multi-Party Committee (MPC), which is steadily raising interest rates.

Statements by at least one member of the interest rate-setting body and an ex-member are not helping matters. They say that the Bank of England MPC is concerned purely with containing inflation and the interest-rate policy is concerned with only this area.

The reality is totally different. The latest figures show that inflation fell from 1.3% to 1.1% and then the MPC raised base lending rates from 4% to 4.25%.

Tony Blair was responsible for making the Bank of England an independent body. Removing interest-rate setting from the domain of politicians was his best decision.

The US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and every other responsible central bank is staffed by experienced

## Doubt damages stock market predictions

central bankers who make the interest rate decisions.

But the Blair government decided that the Bank of England needed an MPC, comprising people from different backgrounds, including a sociologist, to help it decide on interest rates.

Imagine you are about to have a serious surgical procedure. I am sure you would be impressed if a government decided that part of the team operating on you by law included people with no medical knowledge whatsoever.

Returning to stock markets, it will come as a surprise to most readers to know that the Standard & Poors (S&P) 400 and the Russell 2000 indices reached record highs this year.

The S&P 400 is the little brother of the S&P 500 and covers the next 400 companies that are too small to be incorporated in the S&P 500. The Russell 2000 covers 2,000 companies with market capitalization ranging from just under US\$1 billion to around US\$5 billion.

The reason for the small companies' performance is simple. They can react much faster to changing situations than their larger brethren. Most do not have the unwieldy internal bureaucracy of large companies, allowing them to be more agile.



## MONEY TALKS

By Richard Watson

Unfortunately, the period of smaller companies outperforming their larger counterparts may be at an end. Small companies, in general, have a history of not performing well when interest rates start to rise. They have another disadvantage when compared with larger companies: when things go wrong they tend to be illiquid.

S&P said in early May that it expects the S&P 500 to be at 1,225 by the end of 2004 - it is currently at 1,098. If S&P is correct, then there will be good gains for the remainder of this year. But not everyone agrees. There are others who still see stock markets falling further.

For stock market observers listening to the predictions of others, it is important to bear in mind what sort of asset manager any spokesperson represents.

For example, if a spokesman for a major investment banking group or asset management group says he is "bullish" about the market, it should be borne in mind that in general such investors make money only on a rising market.

However, a hedge fund manager may say he is "bearish", because hedge funds can make money on both rising and falling markets. Making such a statement promoting a bearish outlook can attract business away from traditionally "long-term only" managers.

I am slightly wary of stock markets at present, but feel they will probably perform better than many expect. When interest rates eventually rise in the US, I believe the downside will be limited, mainly because of relief among those who have been worrying too much about such an interest-rate rise.

In fact, markets may actually gain in response. To return to the medical analogy, if you wait a long time for an operation you may well feel a sense of relief when it is over.

As always, however, markets are most likely to be affected by external factors, such as terrorism, events in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and any further rises in oil prices - as well as anything else that happens. We live in interesting times.

*Richard Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial planning service. He can be reached at Tel and Fax: 076-381997, Mobile: 01-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th.*

## VITAL STATISTICS: TAX TAKE HIKES BY 36%

Type of tax	Amount Collected (B million)		% change
	February 2004	February 2003	
Income tax	133.315	105.042	26.92
Corporate tax	48.904	33.438	46.25
Business tax	0.00	0.00	n.a.
VAT	156.026	126.664	23.18
Specific Business tax	28.354	3.874	631.91
Stamp Duties	8.266	4.987	65.75
Other revenue	0.490	0.442	10.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>375.356</b>	<b>274.447</b>	<b>36.77</b>

Source: Phuket Provincial Revenue Office

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# Breaking away and breaking records

By Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum

If you like fast women, you will love Savitree "Tuk" Srichore, the current Thai record holder in the women's 200-meter sprint, who is now involved in a project to help young Phuket runners maximize their track and field potential.

Running came naturally to Savitree, a native of Buri Ram province. Her father was a middle-distance runner and his oldest daughter, Savitree, set her sights on middle-distance from an early age. She learned early on, however, that her lightning quickness was best suited to shorter sprinting events.

As any successful athlete knows, however, the real inspiration comes from winning. And it didn't take Savitree long to start winning races. She started running at age five, and was collecting medals throughout her primary and secondary school years.

Her success eventually led her from Buri Ram to Bangkok, where she began to compete at national level at the tender age of nine. Under her father's tutelage, she was selected to represent Thailand as part of the Thai national youth team.

In her first international event, at just 10 years of age, she won two gold medals in a regional competition held in Indonesia, one in the long jump and the other in the 200-m dash.

And her international success continued to increase with age. She appeared in five consecutive SouthEast Asian (SEA) Games competitions starting with the 1989 Kuala Lumpur games and ending with the Jakarta games in 1997.

She also made three appearances in the Asian Games and competed in the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992 and in Atlanta in 1996, not bad for a girl from one of Thailand's poorest provinces.

In addition to numerous medals in SEA Games competition, she also won two Asian Games silver medals as part of the Thai 4x100-m relay team, first in Beijing in 1990 and again in Hiroshima in 1994. When Bangkok hosted the Asian Games for the first time in 1998, she collected her third Asian



Games medal, a bronze, also as a member of the 4x100-m relay team.

Despite her best efforts and training for the Olympics, including two months of intensive training in Frankfurt before the Atlanta Olympics, Savitree failed to win any Olympic medals due to the intense competition at the very acme of the sport.

But a collection of over 200 medals, including seven golds from SEA Games competition, is more than enough of a consolation for Savitree, who is now determined to help any Phuket youth with the natural talents and the determination to succeed follow in her fleet footsteps.

When asked about her greatest achievements, she cited breaking the Thai Women's record for the 200-m dash at Thailand's National Games in Nakhon Sawan several years ago.

"My record-breaking time, 23.7 seconds, still holds today and won me a chance to represent Thailand in Atlanta," she beamed. By comparison, the current world record is 21.34 seconds, set by American Florence Griffith-

Joyner, or "FloJo", at the 1988 Olympics held in Seoul.

Asked about how she dealt with the intense pressure of international track-and-field competition, she said, "If you let surroundings disturb your concentration, you are already halfway to failure," she said.

"For success you need continuous practice, sufficient rest and a proper warm-up to avoid injury. I find meat can affect my digestion and slow down muscle movement, so I always avoid it for a few days before a competition," she added.

Like every athlete who pushes her body to the limit, Savitree is no stranger to injury, her worst being a torn hamstring that required surgery when she was in her prime at age 23.

Despite this and other nagging injuries, coupled with a lack of training time due to her university studies, Savitree fought back and took three gold medals in the 18<sup>th</sup> SEA Games in Chiang Mai in 1995.

After years of unparalleled success, Savitree finally quit the Thai national team in 2001.

"Not only did my physical



ABOVE: Savitree "Tuk" Srichore, at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, waits and then *waits* when she hears that she and team members took bronze in the 4x100-meter relay.



LEFT: K. Tuk during a recent coaching trip to Phuket, still living by her philosophy that no matter what sport you like, playing it will improve your life.

problems take their toll on me, but I found I was torturing myself for the points I needed to stay on the team," she said. "There is also a lot of gamesmanship among athletes," she said.

With sprinting still the focal point of her life, she began work as a coach and landed a place with the Assumption University in Bangkok after stints with several other schools.

But she has also been involved in a government project to identify and develop the most promising young Thai athletes.

As part of this, she flies to Phuket each month to help the island's sprinters at the request of Eam Thavornvongwongse, the Deputy Chairman of the Phuket Sport Association, who oversees the project.

"The project was initiated April 2003 with a remarkable opening ceremony and over 100 Phuket-based youngsters signed up," she said.

But the project has been less than the success she has hoped.

"Nobody really paid attention to this project," she said. "All the supporters who seemed so enthusiastic in the beginning vanished not long afterward," she explained.

Island indolence? Perhaps. Savitree said it was the lack of patience and determination among the teenagers themselves, along with lack of support from some local government agencies, that caused the project to fall far short of its goals.

"Most of my students didn't put in the maximum effort. They were rather lazy when it came to training," she said.

She feels that some parents found it too inconvenient to bring their children to Surakul Stadium,

where the sessions were held, and that some teachers felt that emphasis on sports would effect their students' grades.

But like a true champion, Savitree doesn't give up easily. She has pledged to continue the training because there are about 12 young runners who still rely on her.

"I have just found one talented 14-year-old boy and will do my best to prepare him to make the national team," she said.

So Savitree still comes to Phuket twice a month, usually on weekends, and keeps in touch with her trainees by email to give them advice and encouragement. After all, if she doesn't do it, who will? Savitree feels the government isn't doing enough to develop a love of sports among Thais.

"We really need new equipment, advice in foreign training techniques and real government support," she said.

"With this new generation, we also have problems with public relations. Not many young people are attracted to running," she lamented.

"In other countries, youngsters can develop themselves from a young age at special schools dedicated to training. This is why they have raced so far ahead of us," she explained.

But it isn't just a medal hunt for Savitree, who has benefited so much from running.

"No matter what sport you like, playing it will surely improve your life," she concluded.

Anyone interested in improving their life through sports can contact Savitree Srichore at Tel: 01-8770378, or Eam Thavornvongwongse at Tel: 01-737-9759.

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## In-Between still on top in darts league

PATONG: In-Between holds a one-point lead over Champs at the end of eight weeks of play in the Patong Darts League, with both teams taking a full three points on May 11. Both sides will no doubt be "lagered up" and looking to repeat that feat in this week's play as their June 8 showdown at In-Between looms. In their first encounter, home side Champs took the singles and the doubles and rubbed salt into the wound by winning in the beer leg.

### Patong Darts League

**Table:** 1. In-Between (20); 2. Champs (19); 3. Football Crazy (11); 3. Off Shore (11); 5. Didi's (10); 5. Piccadilly (10); 7. Amigos (9); 7. Happy Days (9); 7. Shakers (9); 7. Valhalla (9).

**Results for May 11:** Champs\* 6, Piccadilly 3; Didi's\* 4, Valhalla 5; In-Between\* 6, Amigos 3; Off Shore 3, Football Crazy\* 6; Shakers 5, Happy Days\* 4 (\* = winner of beer leg).

**May 25 fixtures:** Didi's v In-Between; Happy Days v Champs; Piccadilly v Football Crazy; Shakers v Off Shore; Valhalla v Amigos (home team first).

# Star stuns A&B 4-2

BAO RAE: An attack on Star's goal by A&B within the first minute of the second-round Open qualifier of 10<sup>th</sup> Bao Rae seven-a-side soccer tourney set the pace for an exciting and competitive match on May 13.

Star came close to scoring in the fourth minute but an athletic leap and punch from A&B's goalie kept the score 0-0.

The attacks continued apace from both sides but despite two corners awarded in the sixth minute, Star could not break through A&B's solid defense. Play was tight both ways with most of the following action taking place in the center of the pitch.

Star's Virat Sujinee became the local Maradona when he deliberately handled the ball in the 13<sup>th</sup> minute. No "Hand-of-God" claim was made and Virat was shown the yellow card.

The flash of the card heralded some form of epiphany for Virat; just four minutes later, he headed the ball into the back of A&B's net.

Although first blood went to Star, A&B's persistence paid off just one minute before the end of the first half when forward Cheawchan Raksin equalized.



**MANA FROM HEAVEN:** Clinching a place in the final for Star and showing his net worth, Mana Kaset-Kanka deftly places the ball beyond the keeper on May 12.

The second half produced plenty of action to and fro. In the 30<sup>th</sup> minute, a scramble in the A&B goalmouth almost clinched the result for Star until Jamrern Pongpaiboon's dramatic but effective sliding tackle on Prayoon Pongpit cleared the ball.

With the score tied at full time, play then went to an addi-

tional five minutes each-way of "golden goal" extra time but still neither side could slot the ball home.

Each team then had to select three players for a nerve-racking penalty shoot-out. Star sent Supachai Mudmanee up first and his shot found its target, taking the score to 2-1. His op-

ponent from A&B, Chainarong Srinan, missed.

Both Star and A&B scored with their next attempts and Mana Kaset-Kanka scored with Star's final penalty pushing his side to an unbeatable 4-2, and clinching their place in the Bao Rae final on May 23.

— *Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum*

## Basketball trophy bounces toward Kamala Beach



Kamala Beach players with the winner's trophy. Sivapat Limsakul, coach and captain of Kamala Beach (seated, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right), made the switch to 3-point shooting tactics for the final two quarters.

PHUKET CITY: Kamala Beach narrowly beat Show Time A 69-66 in the finals of the Open category of the Phuket Municipality Basketball Summer Cup 2004 played on May 12 at Rajabhat University.

The final saw Show Time A narrowly leading Kamala Beach 17-16 at the end of the first quarter. In the second, both teams again managed to keep the scores

close, with Show Time A leading 39-37 before a reversal of fortune.

Kamala Beach employed 3-point shooting tactics well and managed to finish the third quarter ahead at 55-54.

The change of tactics kept the pressure building during the final quarter and despite some quick ball work from Show Time A's Prayoot Nuplai, Kamala Beach won 69-66

Earlier in the Open category, Landwork Property claimed third place following a convincing 79-56 win over AIS.

In the Under-16s category, first place went to Show Time B, winning over Pattarawadee 51-37. The team intriguingly called Pretty took third place in the same age category after beating Water City 48-41.

— *Rittiwat Suwannarattaphum*

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**The Gazette Distribution Team — always eager to serve you!**



**L**and Rover has launched a thoroughly revamped Discovery, which will be known in the all-important North American market as the LR3. This is the first serious revamp of the Discovery since its debut in 1989, although it did receive a face-lift in 1994 and another in 1998.

The styling of the new Discovery makes it look like a baby Range Rover, with square, boxy lines and multiple headlamps. Some industry insiders have queried the body strake, which divides the front and rear quarters but not the doors. In addition, and for reasons known only to the Land Rover engineers, there is an asymmetric tailgate. Retained is the two-level roof pioneered on the original Discovery.

Power comes not from the familiar old V8 engine, but from a development of Jaguar's highly efficient V8, enlarged to 4.4 liters and delivering a comfortable 300bhp (220kW) and 425Nm of torque.

There is also a 2.7-liter turbo-diesel engine, built by Ford to a PSA (Peugeot-Citroën) design, which produces 190bhp (149kW) and a massive 440Nm of torque. The V8 is mated to a six-speed automatic transmission as standard, while the V6 diesel has a six-speed manual gearbox, though the auto box is available as an option.

The Land Rover was created in 1948 when Rover's design chief Maurice Wilks, who had a large farm in North Wales, needed a vehicle to replace his aging ex-World War 2 Willys Jeep. Wilks and his brother Spencer, the boss of Rover, decided for patriotic reasons to build their own off-road vehicle rather than buying

one from the US.

The Rover car company was going to build a vehicle for the land – hence the Land Rover came into being. Wilks decreed that the vehicle should be “similar to a Jeep, but more useful to a farmer ... a proper farm machine ... able to drive other things and able to be used as a tractor”.

The resultant vehicle – the first Land Rover – was unveiled

at the Amsterdam Motor Show in April 1948. British magazine *The Motor* gave it a thumbs-up, saying: “In launching this new vehicle the Rover Company has displayed an enterprise which should be well rewarded, and there is no doubt [that] a big market, both at home and abroad, exists for a machine such as the Land Rover.”

Since March 2000, Land Rover has been part of Ford's Premier Automotive Group (PAG) – Ford bought the company from BMW for around 110 billion baht. Ford bosses discovered a crumbling company sorely needing investment and updating. Only the paint shop was anything like that of a modern auto plant. Everything else was distinctly archaic – at Land Rover's Solihull base, chassis were still pushed along the production line by hand.

The latest Discovery benefits from the upgrading that had to be carried out at the plant and is a significant improvement on the previous model. It is roomier, with seven seats as an option, the last row folding flat to offer a vast load space.

Adaptive headlamps “see” round corners; a longer wheelbase allows easier access to

Some commentators don't like the odd body strake that misses the doors (above) while others reckon the new Discovery borrows too much of its looks from the Range Rover, especially the trademark asymmetrical headlamps. But few would argue with the cutting-edge engineering.



By Jeff Heselwood



the rear; and suspension, for the first time, is fully independent. Other than the entry-level model, all Discovery models feature height-adjustable, self-leveling air suspension, similar to that of the Range Rover.

All models have the unique Terrain Response system, first seen on the Range Stormer concept vehicle (*Gazette*, March 13-19).

Using this remarkable,

patented system, the driver uses a rotary knob to select one of five terrain settings – normal, grass/gravel/snow, mud/ruts, sand, and rock crawl – and the electronics and traction control are integrated to improve performance according to the surface or incline encountered.

The new Discovery will go

Jeff Heselwood may be contacted by email at [jhc@netvigat.com](mailto:jhc@netvigat.com).

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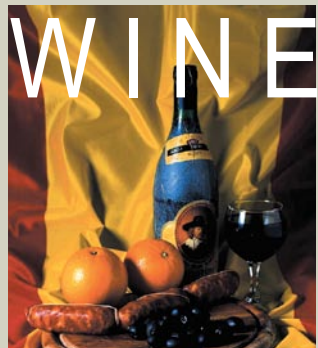
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# Hello Barbera, goodbye love



By Steven Roberto

It was one of those crisp, sunny autumn days that make you feel full of life. I was certain I could win her heart by the close of the day.

She said my passion for wine was engaging. I thought she might mean I had no other interests so I vowed not to discuss wine and we rode our bikes across San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

We were headed for Contra Costa, where the regional parklands would contrast our frequent visits to Napa's wine country. Instead, we found legions of condominiums marching towards the mountains until they could advance no further. I reassured her that the bike pathway would eventually lead us back to nature.

As we rode along ... suddenly, a vineyard! So unexpected, here, surrounded by monotonous townhouses. She looked at me suspiciously. "Did you know about this?" she asked. I protested my innocence as I invited myself over the fence.

"These are Barbera grapevines," I pronounced with confidence. I explained to her that Barbera [bar-BEHR-uh] is common to the Piedmont region of Italy, where it is used to make Barbera d'Asti and Barbera d'Alba.

I showed her how to identify Barbera from the shape of its leaf, and described the wines' berry flavor, crisp acidity, concentrated ruby color, full body and soft tannins. I convinced myself that she shared my enthusiasm and tried not to notice her growing displeasure that our romantic journey was becoming yet another vineyard excursion.

The owner was equally displeased with my unexpected visit and barked for us to move along. "But these are Barbera," I

protested. Recognizing I might have more interest in his grapes than a quick snack, he invited me to have a look around.

His house was an authentic Frank Lloyd Wright, and the vineyard was planted by Italian immigrants at the turn of the century. He had been offered US\$40 million to sell, but said no. I liked him.

He had put together a makeshift winery inside an old barn that sat on one corner of the land. "I sell half the grapes to a winery in Santa Cruz and keep the other half," he told me. Inside, Christmas lights and mannequins decorated the walls. In one corner stood a massive bar that had once graced a saloon in Virginia City, Nevada.

Barbera began to flow and there was smoked salmon, wine-cured salami with cheese, plus crusty bread from a local bakery. The wine's crispness and soft tannins perfectly matched the impromptu picnic. It was magical and the hours flew by.

She was uncharacteristically quiet on the way home. Last I heard, she produces documentary films somewhere in California.

But I still keep in touch with him. He still has no plans to sell the vineyard and, yes, we both agree that Barbera has more potential than is realized and predict a comeback as Italian wines grow in popularity.

I suppose romance is fleeting, but the wonder of discovering perfect wines and the people who create them

Steven Roberto is a winemaker and restaurant consultant from California. He is the Wine and Beverage Director for the award-winning Baan Rim Pa restaurant in Patong. Email: [steveroberto@lycos.com](mailto:steveroberto@lycos.com)

There are many dangers connected with the frequent writing of restaurant reviews. Obesity is one. Developing a reputation as a *bon vivant* or *ligger* is another.

Of course, food is just one element of the whole dining experience. Some of the best grilled mackerel on the island is to be found at the Rawai food-vendors' shacks to be demolished who knows when.

One or two of the *soi-disant* top restaurants are so lacking in atmosphere as to make the prospect of smoked salmonella at those Rawai shacks almost appealing.

There is now, I can report, a happy place for the weary to rest and be revived.

Baan Klung Jinda, at the intersection of Yaowarat Rd and Tungkhua Rd in Phuket City, became a "must-do" before it even enjoyed its official opening.

If the building looks somewhat grand from the outside, so it should. It was once the residence of the Treasurer of Phuket, although you won't necessarily have to break the bank to dine there.

Delightfully discreet staff greet you as you arrive. For dinner, the male staff wear smart mandarin-collar jackets in rich gold, blue or red silk. The different colors denote captain, waiter or busboy.

Their female counterparts are elegant in flowing *ao dai*-style white tunics over loose white pants and red, blue or gold tops. All are attentive and affable without being overbearing or inane.

The atmosphere as one sits in the cocktail salon is welcoming, as if one has just entered a friend's house for a dinner party. That's what Baan Klung Jinda feels like: your refined best friend's home.

The BKJ house band play some fine jazz standards and contemporary interpretations with pizzazz, the perfect accompaniment for my arid vodka Martini and the St George chardonnay my three lady companions are enjoying. Nice.

The dining room can theoretically accommodate 200 people, but the tables tonight are set well apart, keeping the number of diners at an agreeable



Diners can watch as staff at Baan Klung Jinda prepare

## A class act

level.

The delicate appetizers – *kaew krob*, deep-fried *wonton* filled with minced pork, garlic and coriander – are a foretaste of the delights to follow.

One companion enjoys her *gaeng liang kung*, a light broth of prawns and mixed vegetables. She tells me that it is good for women following childbirth. I try some, and would (possibly) endure giving birth just for this soup.

I watch, rapt, as the captain prepares *choo chee kung* at our table. He warms the triple sec before flambéing tiger prawns and carefully arranging them and the other ingredients – coconut milk and a divine red curry sauce – over a bed of *nam prik gaeng sot*.

No sooner has he finished than a female counterpart presents us with a tray of ingredients for

our bespoke *somtam*, served not with glutinous rice, but with jasmine rice flavored and colored with blue petals.

The chicken in the aromatic *gaeng massaman* falls off the fork. There is one last piece left. Being a gentleman, and to prevent a fight over it, I graciously scoop it up and eat it myself.

We retire to the cocktail salon for espresso and Cognac. Kitti Pattanachinda, Baan Klung Jinda's owner and the compleat hands-on restaurateur, has been busy mingling all evening and takes time to chat with us, his new-old friends.

An elegant evening, an event really, where there is

Baan Klung Jinda, 158 Yaowarat Rd, Phuket City. Lunch served daily between 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Dinner served between 6 pm and midnight. For further details and reservations Telephone: 076-221777; Fax: 076-214040; or Email: [nicha@baanklung.com](mailto:nicha@baanklung.com)

## On the menu

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## Home of the Week

Patong

**T**he Blue Point lookout offers – to those in the know – some of the finest views of Patong Beach and Bay. Small wonder that the Amari Coral Beach Resort was built on the headland below the viewpoint.

Next to the resort is Baan Suan Gumnaan, a cluster of carefully, yet individually, designed properties. Among these, and now for sale, is a luxurious Thai-Balinese-style home with a dash of European flair.

Trees and a high wall lend privacy to the entrance to the grounds of this unpretentious home.

Although the grounds could not be described as large, careful consideration has been given to making the most of the available space. There is, for example, ample room for two cars in the glass-roofed carport.

The maid's quarters, self-contained and comfortable, are next to the carport. Room exists for a laundry.

The front gardens abound with mature trees and shrubs, including banana, coconut, jackfruit and *mayom* trees.

Authentic Balinese doors open to the main level of the

# Lofty lookout by the bay



Perched high over Patong Bay, this Thai-Balinese-style home offers seclusion with a touch of flair.

house where the teak-and-marble Western kitchen-cum-dining room is found. The vaulted,

wooden ceiling adds to the ambience of the room, as does the water feature that follows the

outside boundary of the dining room.

From the dining room, a short flight of stairs leads to a pavilion housing a guest room, and to the master bedroom, with walk-in closets and en-suite bathroom.

The balcony of this room gives one the sense of sitting in a sala. Trees give cool shade and the views across the bay are outstanding.

On the next level is the lounge. This room has no walls, the area being defined by a vaulted, timbered skylight ceiling, some eight meters high at its apex, from which hangs a massive ornamental light fitting.

From the rear of this room, another set of double doors leads down a few steps to the terrace and the 32-sqm freeform pool. Here there is also another private guest pavilion, with a cavernous bedroom, ensuite facilities and walk-in closets.

Descending more steps leads to another huge guest suite. Italian in style, it could also make an office or games area. From there it is a short stroll to the shoreline.

Air conditioning and fans are fitted throughout the property and great attention has been placed on the fittings & fixtures, including such details as teak roof tiles.

Bordered by similar prestige homes, this delightful property epitomizes relaxed tropical living at its best and is offered for sale at 28 million baht.

For more information contact Phuket Island Real Estate at Tel: 076-341871 or 01-5697616. Email: [sales@phuketislandrealestate.com](mailto:sales@phuketislandrealestate.com), website: [www.phuketislandrealestate.com](http://www.phuketislandrealestate.com).

The poolside terrace offers superb views of Patong Bay.



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## Construction Update

by Anongnat Sartpisut

Artist's impression of the Plaza del Mar business center.



# It's the business

CHERNG TALAY: Plaza del Mar, the Sino-Portuguese-style business center at the entrance to Laguna Phuket, which broke ground in March, is due to be completed on November 1.

The two-story development, now 60% complete, comprises 28 units including a fully-equipped conference room and a supermarket. Professionals, such as architects, financial advisers and attorneys, are expected to take most of the units, half of which have already been let. Broadband Internet services will be accessible from the units.

Paul Moorhouse, Director of the project's developer, Tropicasia Development Group, told the *Gazette* that he hopes to attract a bank and an upmarket coffee shop to the development. Parking for 40 cars is planned.

Units on the two-rai site, being developed at a cost of 40 million baht, are for lease for periods of one to 10 years. The units

come in sizes from 34 to 40 square meters and lease prices have been set at 350 baht to 475 baht per sqm per month, depending on location within the center.

Mr Moorhouse is also the developer of the Lakewood Hills estate and may develop a second business center if Plaza del Mar proves successful.

For more information, contact Paul Moorhouse on Tel: 09-8737075 or email to: sales@lakewoodhillshuket.com.

KARON: The multi-million-dollar refurbishment of the Phuket Arcadia Beach Resort, now managed by Hilton International, begins mid-May and is due to be completed by October 1.

The renovation is part of the re-branding of the resort that will lead to its being officially named the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort and Spa once the work is complete.

Kymberley Sproule, Public Relations Manager for the resort, told the *Gazette* that the burgeoning "Mice" (meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions) market is being targeted in the resort's long-term strategy. "There will be five convention rooms in the hotel. The largest, the Grand Ballroom, will have a capacity of up to 1,000 seats. It will be the largest on the island," said Ms Sproule.

Other developments at the hotel include upgrading of 462 of the hotel's 685 guest rooms as well as a new 1,500-square-meter "fusion" spa, combining elements of traditional Asian therapies and modern Western technology, and overlooking the resort's Lotus Lagoon.

For further information contact Kymberley Sproule at Tel: 076-396433-41 or 076-396038-44, Fax: 076-396136, or email to: kymberley.sproule@hilton.com

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Gardening with

Bloomin' Bert

# Skeletons in the woods

**D**o you remember skeleton leaves? I used to think they were amazing when I was a kid. I used to traipse through the woods and collect these long-dead leaves so I could take them into science class the next day. I thought they were cool.

I was probably rather impressed because I could see what was inside – the veins of the leaves and everything. Well, I've grown up now. Admittedly not much, but I'm no longer impressed by dead stuff – I much prefer anything that's alive.

There's a plant in Thailand that is almost as impressive as those skeleton leaves I used to show to my science teacher. This tropical version is the gold-vein plant, or the *sanchezia speciosa*. In Thai it is called *euang-tong*.

Unlike most plants which

are reared for the bountiful flowers and blooms they produce, the gold-vein plant is grown in most gardens purely because of its leaves. They're not that big, about eight centimeters in length, but they're certainly striking.

They consist of a pale-green background, highlighted with bright lemon-colored veins, seemingly sprouting from the center like snakes' ribs. They seem to create almost a kind of stained-glass effect.

It needs nothing except daily watering. Put it in the shade and it will sprout new shoots with glee. Give it full sun and it will beg for more like an over-enthusiastic puppy. Generally speaking, like many other colorfully-leaved plants, the more sun it gets, the more vivid the color of the leaves will be.

Forget its daily water ra-



Above: Lush, but only if you water the *sanchezia speciosa* regularly. Right: The tubular flower of the *euang-tong*.  
– Photo courtesy of Teo, TourThai.com

tion, and it will remind you very quickly, by wilting pathetically and looking generally forlorn. Leave it for a couple of days without water, and you will end up looking at it with feelings of such guilt that the hose will almost spontaneously spring into action.

I was happy with the leaves of the gold-vein plant. They were attractive enough. But it wasn't until it had been in a pot in my garden for a couple of years, hav-

ing doubled in size, that I noticed something as I casually sipped a Chang beer one evening. Small, tubular flowers had appeared.

They're nothing to write home about, I'll admit. In fact they are pretty pathetic compared with many of the other flora in Phuket. But they were flowers.

*Sanchezia* can grow to a couple of meters tall, but that can take a while. Frequent trimming is the best way to encourage it to look its best, and the ideal time to cut it back is just after it's flowered. It tends to sprawl a bit, so you can be fairly ruthless.

Few children collect skel-



eton leaves for science class these days. If you've got kids, though, you could save them the effort of tramping through the woods and just point them in the direction of a *sanchezia speciosa*. Give them the hose while they're there.

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# Property Gazette

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### URGENT SALE

24-sqm condo in Moo Baan Irawadee, Kathu, for urgent sale at 150,000 baht. Please call 09-8742960 or email: pwarunee@hotmail.com

### WOODEN HOUSE

in Chiang Rai for sale at 1.1 million baht. Tel: 076-202-919, 01-3265844. Fax: 076-202558. Email: jintana@bob.psu.ac.th

### RIVERSIDE HOUSE

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### LAND FOR SALE

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2-bedroom house for sale or rent. South Pattaya, big garden. Call Charlie at 07-882-2248.

### SEAVIEW AT MISSION

Land parcels at Mission Hills Golf Course. Lots from 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 14, 17 rai, up to you. Best seaview I've seen in 25 years in Phuket. 2.5 million baht/rai with Chanote title. Also cheaper lots lower down. New road, 3-phase electricity, high-speed Internet. Tel: 06-5950188. Email: nsupin@yahoo.com

### 3.5 RAI IN CANYON

Located in Rawai, beside small stream. Very quiet, new road, electricity. Price: 1.6 million per rai. For more details call 06-5950188 or email: nsupin@yahoo.com

### NEW HOME

near Dulwich. Beautiful new 2-bedroom home, 5 mins from Dulwich International College and directly on golf course. Tastefully furnished. Tel: 01-9390176. Fax: 076-203285. Email: bill@phuketisland.com

### PHUKET CITY + RAWAI

Large, 4-bedroom house on 1.2 rai in Rawai, with pool and Chanote. 13 million baht. 2-3 bedroom house. 4 million baht. New 3-bedroom shophouse on Chaofa Rd, Phuket City. 4 million baht. Prime location list at www.thaichanote.com. Tel: 076-263478.

### LAND FOR SALE

17 rai seaside land on Koh Yao Noi (facing Krabi view). Close to main road, jetty and electricity. Also have 4 rai 3 ngan, 5 mins to Laguna, surrounded by luxury project. Please call 01-8917663 for details.

### GOLF-COURSE LOTS

Build your ocean view dream home on a 1-rai lot on a golf course estate. Step from garden to tee. For full details call 09-9725226 or email: bgbphuket@yahoo.com

### 7 THAI HOUSES FOR SALE



High-quality houses located in Bangkok. Can be sold separately or together. Professional demounting and transport to your site in Thailand included. Tel: 06-881968. Fax: 076-290447. Email: mail@blueline.co.th

### LAGUNA PHUKET CONDO

82-sqm condo, with views of golf course at Laguna Phuket, comprises 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom and kitchen/lounge/diner. Complete with two golf club memberships and access to facilities of the deluxe Laguna Phuket resort. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 09-7247211. Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

### KATA BEACH

houses for sale. 3 houses on Soi Kottanod, five minutes' walk to Kata Beach, for sale. Tel: 076-284065, 06-5958512.

### HOUSES NEAR LAGUNA

Hilltop houses - two remaining - 2km from Laguna. From 7.8 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, study, living room, kitchen, maid's room, laundry, 2-car garage. 250-sqm covered area, private swimming pool. Completion October 2004. Purchase choices can include Chanote or long lease. Private sale: no brokers. Tel: 01-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

Recently built to Western standards by an expat now relocating overseas. Only the garden needs to be completed. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, European kitchen. Land area: 800sqm. Chanote title. 6 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 09-8713360. Email: seares@ksc.th.com

### URGENT SALE

Must sell beautiful 2.9 rai (4,608sqm) of land at Bangsak Beach, with Chanote. Approx 300m from the beach and 20km from Khao Lak. 4.32 mill baht (1.5 mill/rai). Tel: 603-56365044. Fax: 603-56365044. Email: araya\_seepoem@hotmail.com



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### FOR SALE BY OWNER

Spectacular seaview villa south of Patong, luxury golf course mansion at Laguna, for sale by owner. For more info please call 01-7974413 or email: info@tomkatconsulting.com. Please see website: www.tomkatconsulting.com

### PATONG BEACH

condos for sale. Freehold from 650,000 baht. Tel: 01-5366713. Email: tuddenham.group@virgin.net

### 4 RAI RAWAI

300m from Rawai Beach and 400m from Yanui Beach. Price 2.8 million baht/rai. Tel: 01-3762920.

### LAND FOR SALE

65 rai, Laem Phromthep, 3 mill baht/rai. 4.5 rai, Chalong hill, 2.9 mill baht/rai. 12 rai, Kata hill (Chalong side), 2.2 mill baht/rai. 8 rai, Rawai (near shell museum), 2.4 mill baht/rai. Tel: 09-7310283. Email: bluepktproperty@csloxinfo.com

### LAND FOR SALE

directly on Banyan Tree golf course (Laguna property). 1,050 sqm/262.4 sq wah. Price: 7.872 million baht. Tel: 076-239864. Email: hktrmt@ksc.th.com

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# Property Gazette

## Property Wanted

### LAND NEAR MAIN ROAD

I am looking to buy from 1 to 2 rai of land on any main road – with or without property already – to build a house, office and furniture workshop. Prefer the bypass road, Chao Fa East or West Rds, Ranong Rd or main road from Phuket to Patong, but any other location considered for the right price. Must be very reasonably priced. Please send details by email with size, location, price and pictures, if any, along with your contact phone number. Tel: 09-7299747, 01-676-4849. Email: amono@loxinfo.co.th

### RAI IN RAWAI

Wanted: 1 or 2 rai of land in Rawai area. Price: max of 1.5 million baht per rai. Email: info@waterbicycle.com

### LOOKING FOR 1 RAI

Looking for about 1 rai of quiet land, preferably with mature trees, in the south of Phuket: Chalong, Rawai, Ao Makhom preferred. Please contact with details. Tel: 09-8324419. Email: wingituk@yahoo.co.uk

### RENTAL SHOPHOUSE

wanted. Looking to rent a shophouse of about 80sqm with phone line. Location: Patong, Karon. Email: owner@garou.fr

### SPECIAL PROPERTY

wanted. I am looking to buy a property in the Bang Tao area, or close by. I would like sea views and a house which is 'a bit special'. I am looking to pay a max price of 60 million baht. I would also consider buying a plot of land if the land is right. If you have such a property, email: icrphkt@hotmail.com

### HOME OFFICE

wanted. I am interested in renting a shophouse with facilities, long term, in a reasonable location. Tel: 07-9752326. Email: bus\_asia@hotmail.com

### EXPAT NEEDS

long-term rental. I will be moving house soon when my contract finishes and am therefore looking for a house for long-term rental. I am pretty flexible regarding location but it needs to be a house and not a flat. Willing to pay up to about 20,000 baht a month and a one-month deposit. Email: phuket\_expats@hotmail.com

## Accommodation Available

### AIRCON ROOM

Air-conditioned room available for rent at only 5,500 baht a month. Fax: 076-346085. Email: paradizo@paradizo.com. For more information, please see our website at: www.paradizo.com

### POOLSIDE ROOMS

Poolside rooms with hot shower, aircon, cable TV, daily room cleaning and s-pool and restaurant. 550 baht/day; 12,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-292907. Email: coconut2004@phukets.info. Please see our website: www.phukets.info/coconut.html

### HOLIDAY RESORT

Koh Yao Noi, Phang Nga. One of first and still one of the finest vacation homes is on the white beach of Pa Zai. Koh Yao Noi, Phang Nga province. Holiday resort, Koh Yao Noi, is approx 45 minutes' boat ride from Bang Rong Pier of Phuket or from Ta Len Pier of Krabi. Tel: 076-597472-9, 01-6457450, 09-1132767.

### OCEAN-VIEW CONDO

1-bedroom condo, 10<sup>th</sup> floor w/sea and mountain views. Walk to beach. Semi-furnished w/2 bathrooms, private telephone line. One-year lease for 12,500 baht/month plus water, electricity, maintenance, UBC and security deposit. Available June 1, 2004. Tel: 07-2815292. Email: jaybet3@hotmail.com

### HOTEL PROMOTION

Special rate for low season, long stays at beachfront hotel, including ABF and facilities: just 18,000 baht a month. Please call Tel: 076-345518 or 01-8920038 for more information.

### PATONG LUXURY

1- and 2-bedroom apartments in central Patong. Email for info and photos. Email: suites247@yahoo.com

### ATSUMI VILLAS

Offers peace and quiet in a tropical garden in Rawai. 1 bedroom, lounge, kitchen, aircon and UBC. Tel: 01-2720571.

### ROOMS FOR RENT

Beautiful Shanti Lodge at Ao Chalong. Low season rate from 350 baht a day. Call Svana Elec at 076-280233.

### ROOMS FROM B300

Rooms for rent. Fan or aircon rooms, mini fridge, hot/cold shower, bar, pool table, satellite TV. All rooms are ground level and there is 24-hr security. 10-min walk to beach. Special rates May to September of 5,500 baht a month. Email for pics and info. Tel: 076-342280, 01-9781956. Fax: 076-290-383. Email: palm@phuket.ksc.co.th

### KATA PENTHOUSE

Furnished Kata penthouse and rooms with UBC, aircon, fridge, telephone, balcony and view. 11,000 baht a month and 5,900 baht a month. Tel: 076-333589. Email: richardandooy@tesco.net

### FREE DEALS

Beautiful rooms with aircon, shower, bath and sunny balcony. Other facilities include restaurant, bar, cable TV, large screen sports TV, swimming pool, sauna, free snooker and free use of motorbike. Rate: 750 baht a night, and long-term deals available. Tel: 076-340743, 09-8722752. Fax: 076-344057. Email: ukthai@procom.in.th

### QUIET & CLEAN

Fully furnished 1-bed apartments – with kitchen, balcony, satellite TV, fan or aircon, swimming pool with poolside bar – located on the quiet and cool Patong hillside. Long-term rent starts at 10,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-344707, 01-9785501. Fax: 076-344689. Email: info@phuketforsale.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### APPARTMENT BUNGALOW

wanted. In Karon/Kata area for four weeks in July/August 2004. Need double bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, bath/shower/toilet, fridge, safe, TV and aircon. Seaview or pool would be nice, but not essential. Email: bilscot@supanet.com

### WANTED IN PHUKET

I require furnished accommodation in Phuket City or surrounding area for long-term rental from July. I need 1 or 2 bedrooms, with aircon in at least one bedroom. Would consider apartment or condo. Would like to have UBC/cable, balcony, kitchen, hot shower, etc. Price range: 7-10,000 baht/month, depending on location, etc. Photo appreciated. Email: khun\_shane@yahoo.com

### WANTED TO RENT

Furnished house or apartment wanted for long-term rent. Must have aircon, UBC or cable TV. All areas considered. Prefer from Phuket City to Chalong and Villa 5. Will pay up to 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 067-973629 (Thai) or 01-3971439 (Eng). Email: cvard@granis.net

### LOOKING 4 RENTAL

house. German, retired, with one dog, looking for 2-bedroom house with hedge, furniture and telephone line for Internet – very important. From now for long term. Tel: 09-4729146.

### QUIET COUPLE

seeks views. We can pay 7,000 to 10,000 baht a month. Email: butterfly33@yahoo.com

### COMFORTABLE FLAT

Seeking a comfortable flat in Patong or nearby between June 15 and July 20, approximately. Must have kitchen, cable TV, aircon and fan. Email: midcac@hotmail.com

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Email: p-con@chaiyo.com

## Household Services

### ONE-STOP SERVICE

Tel: 09-5913996 or 01-8953185. Email: hservice@phuket.ksc.co.th

### LOCK-UP STORAGE

Cars and motorbikes can be stored securely in our new 500-sqm steel lock-up industrial shed. 24-hour security and motion-sensor security. Tel: 01-0825707.

## Property Services

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# Island Job Mart

**CB Richard Ellis Asset Management (Asia Pacific) Limited** provides professional management services for hospitality properties, such as hotels, serviced apartments, clubs, resorts, spas, townships and mixed-use developments throughout Asia Pacific. The company is part of the CB Richard Ellis group, the world's largest vertically integrated real estate services company, employing 10,000 employees worldwide in more than 250 offices in 47 countries. We are currently looking for motivated individuals to join our hospitality management team in our new resort located in Phuket.

## General Manager/Resident Manager

- Candidates must have at least 2-3 years' experience in their respective positions.
- Current or previous work experience in Phuket, Thai-language skills an advantage.
- Degree/diploma in hotel management.
- Familiar with various hotel management systems.
- Good working knowledge of accounting.
- Highly motivated and a strong motivator to staff.
- Excellent customer relations skills.
- Experience in Sales & Marketing.
- Computer literacy in MS Office a must.
- Pre-opening experience an advantage.

## Department Heads

- Director of Sales & Marketing \*  
- minimum 5 years' experience as D.O.S. for a Phuket property.
- Sales Managers \*
- Reservations Officer. \*
- Sales & Public Relations - minimum 2 years' Phuket experience.
- Financial Controller  
- minimum 5 years' experience as hotel/resort financial controller.
- Front Office Manager  
- minimum 3-5 years experience.
- Executive Housekeeper  
- minimum 5 years' experience.
- F&B Manager  
- minimum 5 years' resort experience.
- Purchasing Manager, resort experience.
- Human Resources Manager  
- minimum 5 years' experience.

Positions marked \* are Bangkok based

## Contact

If you are the person we are looking for, please submit your application, accompanied by a recent passport-size photograph and salary expectations, by e-mail to: [bnbk@chre.com](mailto:bnbk@chre.com) or to: **CB Richard Ellis Asset Management (Asia Pacific) Limited**, Suite 901, One Pacific Place, 140, Sukhumvit Rd, Bangkok 10110.



The Allamanda Vacation Club, based in Phuket and an integrated part of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, is currently looking for enthusiastic individuals to fill several available positions of:

**Asst. Sales Manager (2 positions), Sales Representative (5 positions)  
Outside Personal Contact (6 positions) and Tele-Marketer (3 positions)**

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- Self motivated and enthusiastic
- Able to communicate effectively in English (other languages would be an advantage)
- Interested in earning a lot of money
- Experience preferred but not essential (full training given)
- Truly passionate about representing the best product in our industry
- Outside Personal Contact & Tele-Marketing positions reserved for Thai only.

Applicants are invited to apply in person at Allamanda Vacation Club. Office is located in Canal Village (shopping area) at Laguna Phuket. Or send a full resumé, detailed qualifications and experience with recent photo to:

Group Director of Human Resources  
**Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co Ltd**  
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-324416-7 Fax: 076-325002  
Email: [sunisas@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:sunisas@lagunaphuket.com) or [avcmkt@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:avcmkt@lagunaphuket.com)

## ASSISTANT GM

Assistant General Manager position available in a boutique resort. Successful applicant will be responsible for daily operations and human resources. Thai nationals only need apply, and by email only. For more information or to apply, email: [jobs@opensthe.net](mailto:jobs@opensthe.net)

## OFFICE SECRETARY

Secretary required for a quantity surveyor's office. Candidates must be Thai nationals, fluent in spoken and written English, and must have good computer skills. Please forward CV to: PO Box 65, Patong Post Office, Kathu, Phuket, Thailand, 83150.

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

Property Sales staff: 3 positions available. Must speak English and have own transport (motorbike okay). Salary: 10,000 baht. Please contact for more details or to apply. Tel: 076-345707. Email: [info@phuketonerealestate.com](mailto:info@phuketonerealestate.com)

## TRISORD

Thailand's Most Luxurious Small Resort & Spa  
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Trisord is seeking a top standard and best experience and we are now looking for people who are not only enthusiastic and energetic but also have excellent English communication skills to join our growing team in the following positions:

## Accounting Department

- Finance Officer
- Reception
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Marketing Sales
- Cost Controller
- Manager
- General Manager
- Finance
- Front Office

## F & B

- F & B General Manager
- F & B Assistant Manager
- F & B Supervisor
- F & B Administrative Assistant
- Barista
- Chef
- Pastry
- Restaurant Manager
- Housekeeping

## Guest Services

- Night Manager
- Reception Manager
- Housekeeping Manager
- Front Office Manager
- Front Office Assistant
- Front Office Receptionist
- Front Office Supervisor
- Front Office Assistant
- Front Office Receptionist
- Front Office Supervisor

## Human Resources

- HR Manager
- HR Assistant
- HR Supervisor
- HR Administrative Assistant
- HR Receptionist
- HR Supervisor
- HR Assistant
- HR Supervisor
- HR Assistant
- HR Supervisor

- HR Manager
- HR Assistant
- HR Supervisor
- HR Administrative Assistant
- HR Receptionist
- HR Supervisor
- HR Assistant
- HR Supervisor
- HR Assistant
- HR Supervisor

## Marketing Department

- Marketing Manager
- Marketing Assistant
- Marketing Supervisor
- Marketing Administrative Assistant
- Marketing Receptionist
- Marketing Supervisor
- Marketing Assistant
- Marketing Supervisor
- Marketing Assistant
- Marketing Supervisor

## IT

- IT Manager
- IT Assistant
- IT Supervisor
- IT Administrative Assistant
- IT Receptionist
- IT Supervisor
- IT Assistant
- IT Supervisor
- IT Assistant
- IT Supervisor

- IT Manager
- IT Assistant
- IT Supervisor
- IT Administrative Assistant
- IT Receptionist
- IT Supervisor
- IT Assistant
- IT Supervisor
- IT Assistant
- IT Supervisor

## Other

- Security Guard
- Security Supervisor
- Security Assistant
- Security Administrative Assistant
- Security Receptionist
- Security Supervisor
- Security Assistant
- Security Supervisor
- Security Assistant
- Security Supervisor

## Recruitment

- Recruitment Manager
- Recruitment Assistant
- Recruitment Supervisor
- Recruitment Administrative Assistant
- Recruitment Receptionist
- Recruitment Supervisor
- Recruitment Assistant
- Recruitment Supervisor
- Recruitment Assistant
- Recruitment Supervisor

- Recruitment Manager
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# Island Job Mart

## RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR

is required for one of Phuket's trendiest restaurants. The candidate should be fluent in English and experienced in the restaurant business, preferably with a hotel background. Please send your application via email and attach a photograph if possible. For more details, please contact Tel: 076-344834. Email: daniel@lim-thailand.com

## OFFICE MANAGER

Full-time Office Manager required for an exclusive villa project, based near Kamala. Applicant must be fluent in both spoken and written English, and have at least 5 years' experience in a similar role. A sound understanding of accounting is essential together with knowledge of QuickBooks, Microsoft Word and Excel. A car and driver's license are preferred. Good presentation and bright personality very important. Excellent rewards for successful candidate. Please forward CV to apply. Tel: 09-8934217. Email: admin@capcsol.com

## SENIOR TICKETING MANAGER

Phuket's leading travel organization urgently requires a Senior Ticketing Manager. Must be fluent in written and spoken English and have at least 4-5 years' experience. Send CV by fax or email to apply, or call for more details. Tel: 076-232511. Fax: 076-219664. Email: info@loxinfo.co.th

## MOLLY MALONE'S

Irish Pub, at Patong Beach, Phuket, has vacancies in the following positions: Chef; Cook; Assistant Restaurant Manager/Manageress; Bartenders; Waiters/Waitresses; Bus Boys. Applications must be submitted in person between 9am and 5pm, Mon-Fri. Alternatively, please send your current CV and a photograph by email. For more information, call between 2pm and 6pm on any day. Tel: 01-271-9411. Email: mollymalones@loxinfo.co.th

## TOP MALE MODELS

We are looking for top male models for new magazine in Europe (will be in Phuket in August). Profile: 18 to 25 years old, minimum 170cm tall, minimum 60kg, very attractive body and smile, must be available in August. Very good pay for the right candidates. Please send background about yourself with attractive photo. Email: florianhofmeister@yahoo.fr



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### Teaching Assistant

- Thai national with university degree
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- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care/teaching preferable

### Accounting Officer

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- 1+ years of accounting experience
- Good command of English
- Able to prepare and analyze financial statements
- Able to operate MS Office programmes

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Please contact in person or send CV, letter of application and recent photo to: (Personnel Department) DULWICH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, PHUKET 59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83200. Tel: (076) 238711-20 ext. 1111 Fax: (076) 238750 E-mail: sirtatp@dulwich.ac.th



DULWICH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, PHUKET  
www.dulwich.ac.th

The following part-time positions are available for August 2004.

1. Teacher of Korean.
2. Teacher of Mandarin.
3. Teacher of Spanish and French.

Applicants should possess a relevant degree and teaching qualification and have experience of teaching in secondary school. Please submit a letter of application and curriculum vitae to kanitthas@dulwich.ac.th. Deadline: June 2, 2004.



is looking to recruit for the following positions:  
3 Sales Representatives for Scuba Diving Equipment

- Thai National Male/Female, age over 25
- Spoken English essential
- Proven experience in a sales background
- 2 years' experience in a similar position
- Salary 12,000 baht, with Diving Experience 15,000 baht and up

If you think this is you, please contact Khun Pen on 076/342511 or send email to info@ddiversupply.com

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## Radi Medical Systems

Radi Medical conducts applied research as well as develops, manufactures, markets and sells its own innovative technical medical products and services within the field of interventional cardiology. This is carried out in close co-operation with doctors and associated clinical staff in order to improve patient care. Radi was founded 1988 and has grown successfully through the years. Average number of employees in 2003 was 218 worldwide. A major part of these, 150, are located at our headquarters in Uppsala, Sweden. Net sales in 2003 were US\$45 million.

In 2003, a new subsidiary was started in Thailand. The company is the base for considerable investments. Radi Medical has decided to set up a manufacturing plant for our products. The plant will also comprise Radi Medical's regional head office for sales and marketing in South-east Asia. The location of a production unit in Thailand will enable us to streamline production.

**We are now looking to fill two positions:**

### Technician

Production and service  
Full-time employee  
Phuket, Thailand

### Job Description

Install and maintain production machines and equipment  
Also maintain equipment in the clean room.  
The work is both practical and theoretical.

### Preferred Profile

- Engineer with Mechanical Degree
- Theoretical and practical experience
- Strong in both written and spoken English

### Executive secretary

Administration  
Full-time employee  
Phuket, Thailand

### Job description

Provide quality and professional secretarial services and administrative support to management, handling of reports, correspondence and presentation materials.

### Requirements

- Minimum 5 year solid secretarial experience in serving senior management
- PC literacy, especially in MS Word and PowerPoint
- Strong in both written and spoken English
- Good spoken and written Thai
- Self-motivated, proactive, able to work independently, mature and able to perform under pressure

E-mail and attach CV to Khun Surin at nuknew@samarts.com and lars.tenerz@radi.se

## International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

### Urgently Required

#### Receptionist (1)

#### Qualifications

- Female (Thai), age of 25 years plus
- Excellent command of English language
- Computer and office equipment skills
- Good personality and able to deal with people

If you are interested, please contact us at  
Email: interlaw@loxinfo.co.th  
Head Office: 17/6 Chaofa Rd, Talaad Nuea, Muang, Phuket 83000.

### PROGRAMMERS

required. Must speak English and Thai, have VB ASP.NET, experience in ERP is an advantage. Please email your CV to apply. Email: sismith999@yahoo.co.uk

### NANNY/HOUSEMAID

required for English couple with 2 children. Working 5-6 days/week. Live-in preferred, and must speak some English. Please contact for more details. Tel: 07-0090404.

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